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# TIME AND ETERNITY

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

RV = *Rgveda Samhita*, TS = *Taittirīya Samhita*, AV = *Atharvaveda Samhita* AB = *Aitareya Brahmana*, JUB = *Jaimirīya Upanisad Brahmana*, PB = *Pañcavimsa Brahmana*, SB = *Satapatha Brahmana*, AA = *Aitareya Āraṇyaka*, SA = *Sankhayana Āraṇyaka* U., or Up = *Upanisad*, BU = *Brhad aranyaka Up*, CU = *Chandogya Up*, KU = *Katha Up*, MU = *Maitri Up*, Kaus = *Kausītaki*, Mund = *Mundaka Svet* = *Svetasvatara*, Taitt = *Taittirīya Mbh* = *Mahabharata* BG = *Bhagavad Gita* BrS = *Brahma Sutra (text)*, BrSBh = *Brahma Sutra Bhasya (Sankara)* Manu = *Manava Dharma Sastra*

Vin = *Vinaya Pitaka*, A = *Anguttara Nikaya*, D = *Digha Nikaya*, M = *Majjhima Nikaya*, S = *Samyutta Nikaya*, Sn = *Sutta Nipata*, Dh = *Dhammapada*, KhP = *Khuddaka Patha*, Mil = *Milinda Panha*, J = *Jataka*, Vism = *Visuddhi Magga*, Dpvs = *Dipavamsa*

AJP = *American Journal of Philology*, BSOS = *Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies*, JAOS = *Journal of the American Oriental Society* JHI = *Journal of the History of Ideas*, JRAS = *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, NIA = *New Indian Antiquary*, HJAS = *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, SBE = *Sacred Books of the East*, ZDMG = *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gesellschaft*

Philo Judaeus Gig = *De gigantibus* Heres = *Quis rerum divinarum heres sit*, LA = *Legum allegoriam*, Opif = *De opificio mundi*, Spec. = *De specialibus legibus*

Evans = C de B Evans, *Meister Eckhart*, vols I and II, 1924 and 1931, Pfeiffer = Fr Pfeiffer, *Meister Eckhart*, 4th ed., 1924

Shams i Tabriz *Diwan* = R A Nicholson, *The Diwan Shamsi Tabriz* 1893

# TIME AND ETERNITY

## INTRODUCTION

*Tò δὲ πρότερον καὶ ἔσπερον ἐν κινήσει ἐστὶν, χρόνος δὲ ταῦτ  
ἐστὶν τα δὲ ὄντα, ἢ ἀεὶ ὄντα, οἷα ἔστι ἐν χρόνῳ*  
Aristotle *Phys* 4 14, 223 A + 4 12, 221 B

*Nunc fluens facit tempus, nunc stans facit aeternitatem,*  
Boethius *De consol* 5 6

In ewikeit ist weder vor noch nach Allez, daz got  
ie geschuof die beschepfet got nu zemale, —  
Meister Eckhardt, Pfeiffer pp 190, 207

It was an everlasting beginning, — Jacob Boehme,  
*Mysterium Pansophicum* 4 9

*In principio id est in verbo in sapientia fecit,* —  
St Augustine, *Confessions*, 12 20, 28

*Anyatra bhutac-ca bhavyac-ca anady anantam  
isano bhuta bhavasya-ca evadya sa u svah<sup>1</sup>,* — *Katha  
Upanisad* 2 14, 3 15, 4 13

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<sup>1</sup> Nec praeteritus nec futurus sine initio aut fine Dominus  
omnium praeteritorum et futurorum, Ille solus est hodie atque  
cras

*Οὔτε γεγονός οὔτε εσομενος ἀτε αναρχος και ατελευτητος ὦν  
αλλα κυρος ὦν παντων των γεγονοτων και εσομενων οὔτος  
μόνος ἐστι σημερον και αἰριον*

Aided by Professor George Chase, and Professor Werner  
Jaeger, I put this into Latin and Greek only to show how easily  
and perfectly Latin, Greek and Sanskrit can be translated from  
one to the other

“Need there is, methinks, to understand the sense in which the Scripture speaketh of Time and Eternity” (Dionysius, *De div nom* X 3)<sup>2</sup> Here, the doctrine of Time and Eternity will be discussed in Vedic, Buddhist, Greek, Christian, and Islamic contexts Both terms are ambiguous “Time” is either all or any part of the continuum of past and future duration, or that present point of time (*nunc fluens*) that always distinguishes the two durations from one another Eternity is either, from our temporal point of view a duration without beginning or end or, as it is in itself, that unextended point of time which is Now (*nunc stans*)

From what may be called the fundamentalist or literalist point of view, time in the first sense is thought of as having had a beginning and as proceeding towards an end, and so contrasted with eternity as everlasting duration without beginning or end The absurdity of these positions is made apparent if we ask with St Augustine, “What was God [the Eternal] doing before he made the world?” the answer being, of course, that inasmuch as time and the world presuppose each other and in terms of “creation” are “concreated”, the word “before” in such a question has no meaning whatever Hence it is commonly argued in Christian exegesis that *ἐν ἀρχῇ in principio*, does not imply a “beginning in time” but an origin in the First Principle, and from

<sup>2</sup> Cf St Augustine *De ordine* 2.51 “In this world of sense it is indeed necessary to examine carefully what time and place are so that what delights in a part, whether of place or time may be understood to be far less beautiful than the whole of which it is a portion”

this the logical deduction follows that God [the Eternal] is creating the world *now*, as much as he ever was

The metaphysical doctrine simply contrasts time as a continuum with the eternity that is not in time and so cannot properly be called *everlasting*, but coincides with the real present or now of which temporal experience is impossible. Here confusion only arises because for any consciousness functioning in terms of time and space, "now" succeeds "now"—without interruption, and there seems to be an endless series of *nows*, collectively adding up to "*time*". This confusion can be eliminated if we realise that none of these *nows* has any duration and that, as measures, all alike are zeros, of which a "*sum*" is unthinkable. It is a matter of relativity, it is "we" who move, while the Now is unmoved, and only seems to move,—much as the sun only seems to rise and set because the earth revolves.

The problem that arises is that of the locus of "*reality*" (*satyam, το ὄν ens*) whether reality or being can be predicated of any "*thing*"<sup>3</sup> that exists in the flux

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<sup>3</sup> The words 'real' and 'thing' have an interest of their own. 'Real' is connected with Lat *res* and probably *reor* 'think', 'estimate' and thing with "think, denken. This would imply that appearances are endowed with reality and a quasi-permanence to the extent that we name them and this has an intimate bearing on the nature of language itself of which the primary application is always to concrete things so that we must resort to negative terms (*via negativa*) when we have to speak of an ultimate reality that is not any thing. That a 'thing' is an appearance to which a name is given is precisely what is implied by the Sanskrit and Pali expression *nama rupa* (name or idea and phenomenon or



of time and is therefore never self-same, or only of entities or an all-inclusive entity not in time and therefore always the same. A brief discussion of this problem will provide a setting for the treatment of the traditional doctrine of time and eternity.

Sanskrit *satyam* (from *as*, to "be"), like *τὸ ὄν* and *οὐσία* (from *εἶμι*, to "be"), is the "real", "true", or "good",—ens et bonum convertuntur. In these senses, *satyam* can be predicated of existents<sup>4</sup>, for which

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body) of which the reference is to all dimensioned objects, all the accountable individualities susceptible of statistical investigation, that which is ultimately real being, properly speaking, "nameless" "Name and appearance in combination with consciousness are to be found only where there are birth and age and death, or falling away and uprising, only where there is signification, interpretation, and cognition, only where there is motion involving a cognizability as such or such" (D 2 63)

The Vedantic position is that all differentiation (naturation or qualification) is a matter of terminology (*vacarambhanam vikarah*, CU 6 1 4-6, cf S 2 67 *viññānessa arammanam*), and in the same way for Plato, "the same account must be given of the nature that assumes all bodies, one cannot say of the modifications that they *are*, "for they change even while we speak of them", but only that they are "such and such", if even to say that much is permissible (*Timaeus* 50 A, B). In this passage, the "nature referred to is that primary and formless matter that can be informed, nature as being that by which the Generator generates" (Damascene, *De fid Orth* 1 18) or "by which the Father begets" (St Thomas, *Sum Theol* 1 41 5)

<sup>4</sup> Throughout the present article, "exist", "existent", etc are used in the strict sense of *ex alio sistens*, and to be distinguished from "being" or "essence" *in seipso sistens*. The distinction goes back at least to Plato's opposition of *γενεσις* = *bhava* to *οὐσία* = *astita* survives in St Augustine (*De Trin*

"things" in all their variety the collective term is  
 "name and shape" (*nama rupa, ὁ λόγος καὶ ἡ μορφή*,  
 Aristotle, *Met* 8 1 6) and by this (relative) truth, that  
 of the name and shape *by* which God is present in the  
 world (SB 11 2 3 4, 5), and *as* which *it* is differen-  
 tiated (BU 1 4 7, CU 6 3 2), "the Immortal, the  
 Spirit of Life is concealed" (*etad amrtam satyena chan-  
 nam, praṇo va amrtam, namarupe satyam, tabhyam  
 ayam pranaś channah*, BU 1 6 3), just as the Sun, the  
 Truth, is concealed by his rays (JUB 1 3 6), which  
 he is asked to dispel so that his "fairer form" may be  
 seen (BU 6 15, Isa Up 15, 16) In the same way, the  
 powers of the soul are "true" or "real", but "the  
 Truth that the Self is, is the Reality of their reality,  
 or Truth of their truth" (*satasya satyam teṣam esa  
 satyam*, BU 2 1 20), it is "that Reality, that Self that  
 thou art" (CU 6 10 3) In this absolute sense, also,  
 Truth or Reality (*satyam*) is synonymous with Dharma,  
 δικαιοσύνη Justice, Lex Aeterna (BU 1 4 14) one of  
 His names "who alone is today today and tomorrow"  
 (BU 1 5 23) and he only who knows this Ultimate  
 Truth (*paramartha satyam*) can be called a master  
 speaker (*atvadati*, CU 7 16 7 with Comm) "nor ever  
 can our intellect be sated unless *that* Truth shine upon  
 it, beyond which no truth has range" (Dante, *Paradiso*  
 4 124 126) <sup>6</sup>

6 10 11) and is fully dealt with by St Thomas (*De ente et  
 essentia*)

<sup>6</sup> The Vedantic and Buddhist distinction of empirical know-  
 ledge valid for practical purposes and probable from the  
 intellectually valid and axiomatic truth of first principles is the

It is, then, *from* the relative truth of name-and-form that the Comprehensor is liberated (*nāmarūpād vimuktah*, Muṇḍ. Up. 3. 2. 8); however it may be a valid truth for practical purposes, it is a falsity or unreality (*anṛtam*) when compared with the "Truth of the truth, Truth absolutely, and it is by this falsity that our True Desires" are obscured. In other words, temporal "things" are both real and unreal. The Vedānta does not in fact, as has so often been asserted, deny an existence of temporalia,—“for the distinct suchness (*anyatattvam*) of this world of affairs, evidenced by all criteria, cannot be denied” (BrSBh. 2. 2. 31), “the non-existence of external objects is refuted by the fact of our apprehension of them” (*nābhāva upalabdheh*, BrSBh., 2. 2. 28). That Śāṅkarācārya misinterprets the Buddhist position, which avoids the extremes “is” and

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same as that of “opinion” from “truth” in Greek philosophy; opinion corresponding to becoming, and truth to being (Parmenides, Diogenes Laertius 9 22, Diels frs 1, 8, and Plato, *Timaeus* 28, 29), opinion having to do with “that which begins and perishes” and truth with “that which ever is, and does not begin”, the distinction, surviving in Leibnitz’ two forms of intuition, one giving “the truth of fact”, the other “the truth of reason”, is virtually, and perhaps actually, a restatement of Democritus, who recognized “two forms of knowledge, respectively bastard and legitimate, the former reached by the senses, the former reached by the senses, the latter intelligible, reason being the criterion” (Sextus Empiricus, *Adv Dogm.* 1 138 f.) Modern “pragmatism”, of course, deals only with the “bastard” truth of facts, according to which, for example, we *expect* (though we do not *know*) that the sun will rise tomorrow, and act accordingly. Hence, also, the modern concept of art as a merely *aesthetic* experience

"is not" (S 2 17, cf. BG 2 16), is irrelevant in the present connection. The point of importance is that the Vedantic position is in perfect agreement with the Platonic, which is that things are "false" ( $\mu\epsilon\tau\epsilon\delta\omicron\varsigma = \text{anrtā}$ ) in the sense that an imitation, though it exists, is not "the real thing" of which it is an imitation, and with the Christian doctrine as formulated by St Augustine in *Conf* 7 11 and 11 4 "I beheld these others beneath Thee, and saw that they neither altogether are, nor altogether are not. An existence (*esse*) they have, because they are from Thee, and yet no existence, because they are not what Thou art. For only that really *is*, that remains unchangeably, Heaven and Earth are beautiful and good, and are (*sunt*), since God made them", but when "compared to Thee, they are neither beautiful, nor good, nor are at all" (*nec sunt*). The Vedantic doctrine that the world is "of the stuff of art" (*maya maya*) is not a doctrine of "illusion" but merely distinguishes the relative reality of the artefact from the greater reality of the Artificer (*mayin, nirmanakara*) in whom the paradigm subsists. The world is an epiphany, and it is no one's fault but our own if we mistake "the things that were made" for the reality after which they were made, the phenomenon itself for that of which phenomena are appearances! <sup>6</sup> Moreover, "illusion" cannot properly be predicated in an object, it can only arise in the percipient: the shadow is a shadow, whatever we make of it.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Anaxagoras, "things apparent (*τα φαινομενα*) are the vision of things unseen" (Sextus Empiricus, *Adv. Dogm.* 1 140) and Romans 1 20.

Mind, parents of the Breath, or Truth, or Knowledge, or Self; and Prescience<sup>2</sup> and Faith, parents of Sacrificial-Action (*karma*)<sup>3</sup>. But the most significant from the present point of view is the further triad, procession (*gati* = *pravṛtti*) and recession (*nivṛtti*), parents of stasis (*sthiti*). All measures of time, from *dhvamst*'s up to Years, are united in this union (*samhitā*), that of the Stasis,—“it unites these times” (*kālān samdadhāti*). The text goes on: “Time (*kāla*) unites procession, recession, and stasis, and by these All This (world, or universe) is united”<sup>4</sup>. That is, *in divinis*. Subjectively, psychologically, “the past (*bhūtam*) is the prior and the future (*bhavyam*) the posterior form, and the present (*bhavat*)<sup>5</sup> is their union (*samhitā*), or product”. In illustration of this, the *Āraṇyaka* quotes RV. 10 55. 2, “Great is that hidden Name, and far extending, whereby thou madest past<sup>6</sup> and Future (*bhūtam ... bhavyam*)”

<sup>2</sup> *Prājñā* Keith's mistaken and unintelligible “offspring” merely reflects the misprint *praja* in his own edition of the text, *Aitareya Āraṇyaka*, 1909, 210

<sup>3</sup> Cf *ŚB* 11.3 1, and *AB* 7 10 where the sacrificer represents Truth, and his wife, Faith

<sup>4</sup> Essentially, this is the doctrine attributed by Ramanuja to the Jains: “‘Time’ is a particular atomic substance which is the cause of the current distinction of past, present, and future” (in comment on *BrS* 2 2 31, *SBE XLVIII*, 516)

<sup>5</sup> Note that *bhavat*, as an honorific, is also “Presence”, as, e.g. Milton, “Sov'ran Presence”, and cf the doctrine of “Total Presence”

<sup>6</sup> Keith's “present” is an obvious slip, as he has, rightly, “past”, for *bhūtam*, above

After “hidden Name” might have been added *AA*. 2 3 8 4 *yasmin namā . tasmin devāḥ sarvayujō bhavanti* and *AV* 10

and might have cited AV. 19 53 5 and 54 3. "Sent forth by Time (*kalā*), what hath been and shall be

7 22 [skambha = brahma] *jatradityas rudrās ca sasavas-ca* [the *pranāh* of CU 3 16, elsewhere often = *devāh*] *samāhitah*

It may be worth noting in the present context that 'the original sense of the perfect was not distinguished from the present in point of time but denotes a state' and that this "oldest sense is common in the Rgveda [‘past’] participles which express a completed action whose results persist into the present", Keith, *Altareya Āraṅyaka* 1909, p 211, n 8 and 217, n 1. Examples of participles are "the originally timeless force of the form *kr̥tva*" (*ib* p 179, n 1, cf Whitney, *Sanskrit Grammar* 889, 894), and in RV 1 81 5 *jato*, "not impf 'was born' or aor 'has just been born' but 'exists, having been born'", and BD 8 47 *stutah*, not "were praised" but "are praised". Something of the same sort can also be recognized in that kind of ancient art in which successive events of what is verbally expressed by narrative are represented as if occurring simultaneously, in one and the same frame. Again, in Genesis no time interval can be inferred as between "Let there be light" and "There was light", which is also the light that is now. The common Buddhist expression *yatha bhutam*, "as become", used with reference to things "as they really are" implies the ripening of past causation in present effect. Some scholars assume that such forms as *he may, he can* 'are survivals of a primitive atemporal era, when 'preterites' were used indifferently for the present" (G Bonfante in *Word* 1, 1945, p 148). "To the Hopi, time is not cut up into segments which can be measured, like an hour, a day, or a year, but it is rather conceived as a duration in which the Law is being fulfilled" (Laura Thompson, "Logico-aesthetic Integration in Hopi Culture", *American Anthropologist* 47, 1945 p 542). "Once we have rid our minds of the idea of parts of Time all the notes are held together by the uninterrupted succession which in this case is the tune" (F H Brabant, *Time and Eternity in Christian Thought*, 1937, p. 177). As I have often remarked, the 'long

stand apart Time hath engendered what hath been and shall be", and KU 4 13 "Lord of what hath been and shall be, He is both today and tomorrow", and AV 10 7 22 "Wherein what hath been and shall be, and all worlds are instant (*prati tiṣṭhata*), tell me thou of that Pillar (*śkambha*, Axis Mundi), what it may be"

Note, above (1), that Time is on a par with Lightning and (2) the words, "Time unites procession, recession, and stasis" (*kalo gatimvrtti sthitiḥ sandadhati*, SA 7 20) This last can only mean that here Time (as in AV 19 53 where Time is the *source* of past and present, and so cannot be identified with either one or both of these durations) is a static *point*, that of the Stasis in which the two contrary motions *momentarily* coincide, but which otherwise separates them The root in *sthiti* is *stha*, to "stand", "exist", "be in a given state", implying stability, and contrasting with *gam*, or *car*, *cal*, to 'go' or "move", implying instability "what goes" and "what stands" together making up the whole of the existence of which the Sun is the Self (RV 1 115 1) The contrast of "standing" with 'going' may be noted in Mbh 13 96 6 where the Sun

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ago' or once upon a time with which our fairytales begin are really timeless expressions (cf Hebrew *alam* rendered by Gk *αἰων*) and a remarkable illustration of this can be cited in the fact that the Indian fable so often begins with *astu* 'There is', for example the first story in the *Pancatantra* beginning *astu kasmīn cit pradese nagaram* 'There is a city in a certain land',—a statement that is not specific as to time or place The myth is really *an̄i yaq̄ iv̄ oex̄n̄*

“stands at mid-day for half a twinkling of an eye” (in Jamadagni’s words, addressed to the Sun, *madhyāhne vai nimeṣardham tiṣṭhasi*); that is not, of course, to be thought of as a measurable period of time. For even for those who thought of the sun as daily ascending and descending, a real pause in the Zenith was always miraculous<sup>7</sup>, and neither does the revolution of the earth, which makes the sun seem to rise and decline, ever stop<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> As in J 1 58 where the sun stands still above the Bodhisatta for so long as he is plunged in *jhana*, but still moves for others, and this is expressly a *patiharaja*, and Joshua 10 13 “the sun stood still in the midst of heaven”

<sup>8</sup> Consider a stone, thrown into the air vertically, how long does it “hang” in the air before it begins to fall again? The answer to this depends upon the fact that the vertical projection of a missile, which first rises and then falls, is only the limiting case of a course that is really curved. When a missile is projected not merely upwards but at the same time forwards it also rises first and then falls, but its course is an unbroken curve, and we do not even imagine that it stops or hangs for however short a time at the highest point of the curve and in the same way in the case of vertical projection there is no actual time however short during which it ‘hangs’, but only a point without duration in which the upward and downward motions, past and future, meet.

The problem is fully dealt with by Aristotle (*Phys* 8 8 262 A) who shows that when the direction of motion of a continuously moving object is reversed we cannot properly say that the object “has reached” or “has left” the point at which the reversal takes place, “but only that it ‘is there at an instantaneous ‘now’ (*ἐνταῦθα ἐν τῷ νῦν*) and not *in* any space or period of time at all” (Wicksteed and Cornford’s rendering). The point at which the reversal takes place is no more an actual stopping place than are any of the other of the indefinitely numerous



On the other hand, as in the case of the miracles cited<sup>7</sup>, so in that of the Comprehensor, the Sun<sup>9</sup> "having risen in the Zenith, will no more rise nor set, but will stand (*sthatr*) in the middle . For the Comprehensor of this Brahmopaniṣad, it is once-and-for-all (*sakrt*) day" (CU. 3 11. 1, 3)<sup>10</sup>. And, also, with reference to Brahma, "there is this indication. *in divinis*, That in the Lightning that flashes forth and makes one blink (*nyamimusat*), and within you, That which, as it were, comes to the mind, and by which one instantly (*abhiksnam*)<sup>11</sup> remembers,—that concept (*samkalpa*)"

points on the way, in each of which the object *might* have stopped but did not

To avoid any possible confusion, it should be realised that the final "coming to rest" of the object on the ground is not a "stasis", but only a condition of relative immobility for some period of time beginning from the terminus of the particular kind of motion first considered, though this does not arise in connection with the sun or earth, of which the motion is continuously of the same kind. In any case "all rest is in time" (*Phys* 4 14, 221 B)

<sup>9</sup> Here the "intelligible Sun",—' not the sun whom all men see, but the Sun whom not all know with the mind ', AV 10 8 14, 1 e. Apollo as distinguished from Helios, Plutarch *Moralia* 393 D, "the Sun of the Angels ' as distinguished from the sun of sense", Dante, *Paradiso* 10 53, 54, Philo's "Sun of the sun", *Spec* 1 279

<sup>10</sup> "Thy sun shall nevermore go down", Isaiah 60 20 "There all is one day, series has no place, no yesterday, no tomorrow" Plotinus, *Enneads* 4 4 7, "the eternal day which neither dawns nor sets", St Augustine *In Ps CXXXVIII* Many other parallels could be cited, e.g. SB 12 2 2, 23, and St Augustine, *Conf* XI 13 16

<sup>11</sup> *Abhiksnam* = *abhi* (intensive) + *ksanam* see *JAOS* 24

(Kena Up 4 4, 5): on which Deussen comments, "Das zeitlose Brahman hat sein Symbol in der Natur an dem momentanen Blitze, in der Seele an dem momentanen Vorstellungsbilde" (*Sechzig Upanishad's des Vedas*, 1907, 208) <sup>12</sup>.

11, note or perhaps better, *abhi* + an obsolete *ikṣnam* Cf *ksana dyuti* and *nimeṣa kṛt* = "lightning" and in the *Sahitya Darpana* 3 3 *lokutara camatkara prana*, with reference to the "tasting of Brahma" *Ksana* should also be noted as "leisure" and "festival", cf Lat *mora* and also *ksana* as "opportunity", i e *gateway* In some uses, *ikṣ*, to "see", "eye", is precisely to "consider", in the primary sense of this word

<sup>12</sup> Lightning is the standard symbol of divine manifestation, revelation and illumination, a brilliance "like lightning in that it lights up the whole body at once", MU VII 11, "in the Lightning, Truth", Kaus Up 4 2 "The Person in the Lightning is the Breath, the Harmony (*saman*), Brahma, the Immortal, as it were a sudden (*sakṛt*) flash of lightning, and even such is his splendor who is a Comprehensor thereof" (JUB 1 26 8 + BU 2 3 6) *Sakṛt* is "one making", "once", "but once" (Macdonell, *Vedic Grammar* 306, 409, Keith, *Sanskrit Literature* 229) the opposite of *asakṛt*, "recurrent", MU 2 4

"Suddenly a light, as if from a leaping fire, will be enkindled in the soul", Plato, *Ep* 7, "the principle of knowledge, that is conceptual pure, and simple, flashes through the soul like lightning and offers itself in a single moment's experience to apprehension and vision", Plutarch, *De Iside* c 77, "the moment of (supreme) illumination is short lived, and passes like a flash of lightning" (Eckhart, Evans ed I 55) "suddenly there shone from heaven a great light", Acts 22 6, "the Lord spake suddenly unto Moses", Numbers 12 4 For the *Abhisamayalankara*, when the End of the Road has been reached, the Full Awakening (*abhisambodhi*) of a Buddha is "single instantaneous" (*eka ksana*), see E Obermiller in *Acta Orientalia* 11 81, 82, and Index, s v Cf Zen *satori* The event is truly "momentous" Many other parallels could be cited

In AV 19 53 and 54, cited above, "Time"—absolutely—is the source of all relative times, not itself a duration, but rather the Timeless, Eternity, to which all moveable time is ever present. It is in these terms that the *Mātrī Upaniṣad* distinguishes the "two forms" (*dvaitībhāva*) of Brahman, i.e. aspects of the two natures (*dvaitībhāva*)<sup>13</sup> of the single essence (*tad ekam*), as "time and the Timeless (*kālas cakalas-ca*) "From one who worships, thinking 'Time is Brahma' (*kālam brahmeti*), time (*kāla*, also death)<sup>14</sup> reflows afar. As it has been said

From Time flow forth all beings,  
 From Time advance to their full growth,  
 And in Time, again, win home,—  
 'Time' is the formed (*murti*) and formless, both

There are, indeed, two forms of Brahma, time, and the Timeless. That which is prior to the sun is the Timeless (*akāla*) and partless (*akāla*), but that which begins with the sun is the time that has parts (*sakāla*), and its form is that of the Year. Prajapati Self<sup>15</sup>. As it has been said

<sup>13</sup> MU 7 11 8 cf BU 2 3 MU 6 22 etc.

<sup>14</sup> "Day and night are death, but they do not affect the divinity Aditya (Sol invictus) for they are only the occasion of his rising and setting" (*Vadhīla Sūtra*) but really "he never rises nor sets" (AB 3 44) "for the Comprehensor it is evermore high noon" (CU 3 2 3)

<sup>15</sup> The solar Self (*ātman*) transcendent and immanent "is called time (*kāla*) who devours all existences (*bhūtāni*) as his food" (*Mātrī Up* 6 2) it is from this all-devouring solar time or death that the concept of a timeless Time is a deliverance. Cf Claudian *Stilicho* 2 427-430

The time (that has parts) cooks (*pacati*,  
 matures) all things,  
 In the Great Self, indeed,  
 But the Comprehensor of That (Time without  
 parts) in which time itself  
 Is cooked, *he* knows the Vedas<sup>1</sup>

This extended (*vigraha*, specific, hypostasised) time is the regal river of begotten beings (the ultimate source) of All This here, and of whatever fair or foul there is to be seen in the world" (MU 6 14—16)<sup>16</sup>

"Other than 'has been' and 'shall be', without beginning or end, Lord of what has been and shall be, He alone is today and tomorrow" (KU 2 14, 3 15, 4 13) He, then, "who is partless, the constant amongst the inconstant, the One of the many, all maker, all knower, immortal, omnipresent (*nityo nityanam eko bahunam visvakrd visavit amrita sarvago niskalam*) is the "creator of time" (*kalakalah, kalakarah*, Svet. Up 6 13—19) "at the command (*ajña*, as a verb, primarily to know, hence to exercise authority) of that Imperishable (*aksara*, also "Word", Logos) the moments (*nimesa*), hours days, and years exist apart"

<sup>16</sup> The formless and undivided Time of MU corresponds to the absolute Time that "unites procession recession, and stasis (SĀ 7 20 cited above) i.e. past, future and present, and to Sankara's 'impartite Time' (*niskala kala*) of which the aeons years, seasons and all other "times" are only "imagined" arrangements (*kalpita*, *Vivekacudamani* 497) In other words, all duration is an articulate form imposed by our own thinking on a Reality to which all such articulation is foreign.

(*vidhṛtas tīṣṭhanti*, BU 3 8 9) And such is what William Morris rightly calls "the entering in of time from the halls of the outer heaven"

For the *Yoga Sutra Bhasya* 3 52, a moment (*kṣana*) is the "ultimate minimum of time, and cannot be further divided up and the continuous flow of such moments is their 'course' (*krama*) Their uninterrupted course is what is called 'time' The whole world passes through a mutation in any one moment, so all the external qualities of the world are relative to this present moment" The control of the moments and their sequence leads to a discriminative gnosis, of which the final development (*ibid* 54), "the Deliverer" (*taraka*), "has all things for its object, and all times, without-regard to their course (*akrama*) as its object" It will be seen that this is the same procedure that is described in the Buddhist *Kalacakratantra* cited below, it reminds us also of Meister Eckhart's saying, "Not till the soul knows all that there is to be known, can she pass over to the unknown good"

Finally, for the Vedanta, the reality or actuality of things is only momentary, it is folly to say of the world that it "is"<sup>17</sup>, and "neither is 'I' a substance, since 'it' can only be seen for an instant (*ksanikatī adarsanāt*), how can the words 'I am omniscient'<sup>18</sup> hold good for the I, etc that exists for a moment only?" (*aham*

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<sup>17</sup> "How can that which is never in the same state be any thing?" (*Cratylus* 439 E)

<sup>18</sup> "The Self knows everything", MU 6 7 This could not be said of the inconstant empirical self or "I"

*ādeh ksanikasya, Vivekakūdāmani* 230, 293). In view of this it is difficult to follow Śāṅkara's polemic in BrSBh. 2. 2. 20 directed against the Buddhist doctrine of "instant dissolution" (*kṣanika-bhanga-vāda*)<sup>19</sup>. Śāṅkara rejects the Buddhist doctrine on the ground that it is incompatible with the operation of causality<sup>20</sup>; but that is an objection that would only hold good if the doctrine had been one of a discontinuous time made up of successive instants; whereas the Buddhist doctrine is that the stream of existence is incessant (*na ramati*, A. 3 147), and carries along with it the momentum (or potential) engendered by all that has taken place in the past, and that the "individuality", however incons-

<sup>19</sup> For the Buddhist doctrine in detail see the following chapter

<sup>20</sup> It seems to be from exactly the same point of view (involving a misunderstanding of the traditional doctrine) that the notion of the "instantaneous present" is rejected in "modern" theories of time, for example, by Whitehead (*The Concept of Nature*, p 73) who insists that "past and future meet and mingle in an *ill-defined present*" [i.e. in what Buddhaghosa calls the "extended moment" (*santati-khana*)] This is to ignore that any such "ill-defined" present must consist of two parts always "with a narrow ledge of definite instantaneous present" determining them, but without interrupting their continuity because it has no duration and is not in time

It is not in the instantaneous present, but in time and space, that causality operates, and it cannot be too strongly insisted that in the traditional doctrine everywhere time and space are uninterrupted continuities, and that were it otherwise the hare would never succeed in passing the tortoise. It is only when time is thought of as *discontinuous* that the operation of causality becomes unthinkable

tant, is always the heir of past actions of which the effects mature in due course, whether sooner or later<sup>21</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> This "sooner or later" is essential to a proper understanding of the concepts of "gradation" and "evolution" The traditional idea of "evolution" is "emergent" Accordingly for St. Augustine "the world is pregnant with the causes of things as yet unborn", "so that at this time or that, and in this or that way, the thing created may *emerge* break out and be outwardly created in some way by the *unfolding* of their proper measures" (*De Trin* 3 9 16), a thing or species is eternal in the Word of God "in which there is no then and sometime", but it "comes into being at that time 'when it ought to come into being'" (*De gen ad litt* 1 2 6), and "as in the seed there are invisibly and at one time all the things which in course of time will grow into a tree, so the universe must be conceived" and in this way those things which are produced by the operation of physical causes existed potentially (i.e. as possibilities) "before in the course of time they [actually] came into being in the shape in which they are now known to us in those works which 'God worketh until now', John 5 17" (*ib* 5 23 45) In other words, their preexistence as possibilities is what is meant by "gradation" while their emergence in the course of time is their "unfolding" or "evolution" The doctrine of "seminal reasons" is not unlike the theory of "genes" by which we now interpret "heredity" Further, analogous to this phylogeny is the ontogeny of individual organisms Just as the pure Intellect embraces the ideas of many things in simultaneous identity with itself, as species are included in a genus, "so it is with the powers (*δυναμεις*) in seeds (each with its corresponding matter, such as moisture) not distinguishable in the whole the formative principles (*λογοι*) are, as it were, all present at one point (*επι ενι κεντροφι*) And there already are the formative principles of the hand and the eye, which will be separately known when they come into being together with their sensible matter This some call the 'nature in the seed' which coming out

Again, the Vedantist Cakrapani, commenting on the *Caraka samhita* (1 1 55, 1 S 11, 141 1)<sup>22</sup> admits that cognitions are momentary (*kṣanika*) but, he says "not as in the Buddhist scriptures 'lasting for a moment only'" (*eka kṣaṇavasthuyinjah*), for there is also a continuity (*samtana*) because of which the experiencing Self<sup>23</sup> is called a Unity (*ekataya ucyate*), and this Self is eternal, though the rise of consciousness in it is occasional, constant, or eternal "because of the concurrence of its own past and future intuition" (*nityatvam catmanah purvaparavasthanubhut urtha pratisam dhanat*)<sup>24</sup> But the opposition is unreal, because the

like light from fire and not mechanically as so many have said moulds the matter by bestowing upon it the formative principles . Given the formative principle and the matter that can receive that seminal reason (*λόγος, αἰτιοματικος*) the living thing itself must come into being (Plotinus *Enneads* 5 9 6 and 10) *Scut autem in ipso grano invisibiliter erant omnia simul quae per tempora in arborem surgerent* St Th Aquinas *De gen ad litt* 5 23 4c)

The Indian texts are rather less detailed but it is very much in the same way that Uddalaka taking for granted that the Self (Spirit) knows everything' (Maitri Up 6 7), expounds the nature of the Self to his son by comparing it to the infinitesimal germ that you cannot see in the seed but will become such a great banyan tree as you see yonder (Chândogya Up 6 12, cf Manu 1 56)

<sup>22</sup> See in Das Gupta *History of Indian Philosophy* 2 367 368

<sup>23</sup> 'Experient immanent Person' (*bhokta puruso nasthanah* Maitri Up 6 10) 'whom the wise call the experient (*bhoktety ahar man s nah* Kaṭha Up 3 4) 'the Lord the experient' (*bhokta mahe svarah Bhagavad G ita* 13 22)

<sup>24</sup> All experiences or intuitions being ever present to the one



Buddhist predication of a merely "single-moment-enduring" experience is to the transient self that is "not my Self", while the Vedantist continuity and unity is that of the true experient, at once my Self and the Self of all beings. The whole, or almost the whole basis of the Vedantist critique of Buddhism seems to rest upon the erroneous supposition that in Buddhism both the transient *and* the real selves are denied, whereas, it is clear enough from the canonical Buddhist scriptures that while the Buddha denied the reality of the transient self (of which he allowed a postulation only for everyday purposes), it can have been only of the Self—"the Lord of the self", Dh 160, 380—that he is speaking when he "takes refuge" in it himself, and recommends others to do the same.

Reference must also be made to the Indian "atomism". The word *anu*, often synonymous with *sukṣma*, "subtle" or "acute" (cf *suci*, "needle"), is not literally "atom", but does mean "indivisible particle or principle", so that *anu*, or *paramanu* and *anutva*, are

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and only transmigrant, the Lord", Prasna Up 4 5, etc see my "Recollection, Indian and Platonic", Supplement No 3 to *JAOS*, 1944

Caṅkrapāni's formula, explaining the meaning of *nityatvam*, is an admirably concise enunciation of the doctrine that eternity is that Now to which the past and future are ever *present*. Note that *nitya* (√*ni*, Gk ε ι "in") has also the primary meanings of "innate" "native", "own", cf *ni ja*, "innate", "own", and *ni vid*, "Vorschrift", "canon", "code". Hence one might render Caṅkrapāni's formula more freely "The intrinsic nature of the Self is its present contemporaneity with whatever has been or will be"

the real equivalents of "atom" and "atomicity", and may be translated accordingly, the related *anu* is the sharp "point" of anything, such as an axle or needle, and I render *animan* by "minimum", though in some contexts it stands rather for the *power* to assume the "minimum" form (which is really that of the "thread spirit", *sūtratman*), in which alone it becomes a possibility to pass through "solid matter" or wherever there is no dimension through which to pass. Furthermore, and just as *āroṃo*, can be used of either spatial or temporal minima, so the reference of *anu* may be either to a "point" of space, without dimension, or to a "point" of time, without duration.

"Atomism" is primarily associated with the Vaisesika position (*darsana*), which takes its name from the fact that the material atoms are regarded as having each its own "particular" (*vishesa*) eternal quality or substance. Kanada's<sup>25</sup> avowed purpose in the *Vaisesika Sūtras*, regarded by Das Gupta as pre-Buddhist, is to explain Dharma (Eternal Law) as the ground on the one hand of eventuation (*abhijudaya*) and on the other of the

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<sup>25</sup> "Atom eater", from *kana* minutium, mote, drop, atom etc., related to *kana* as used for *alpa* in comparative and superlative forms, and present in such words as *kanya*, young or virgin girl, and *kaninaka* pupil of the eye cf. Ir. *cain*, undefiled. The contents of the *Sūtras* is conveniently summarised by Das Gupta, *History of Indian Philosophy* I, ch. 8, but Das Gupta's own comments must be read with some reservations e.g. where he says that for Kanāda Time is the ultimate cause and for this idea elsewhere refers only to Svet. Up. 1.1.2 ignoring on the one hand MU and on the other RV 10.55.2 and the AV and SA references cited above.

Summum Bonum (*nihśreyasam*), i.e. Liberation<sup>26</sup>, the validity of the Vedas is established by the fact that such are their results. Time is the cause of temporalia, but absent from eternal things. "Self" is not an inference drawn from behaviour, but directly known in the experience. "I"<sup>27</sup>, it is one in all, but seems to be many because of the particular limitations of the things in which it is manifested<sup>28</sup>. Nonexistence (*asat*) is the absence of activity and quality, the four types are recognized, prior (potentiality of existence), posterior (no longer in existence), mutually exclusive (definitive, "this is a jar" implying "is not a cloth"), and absolute (antinomial, like "the horns of a hare"). Causality (*hetu*) is relation, but cause and effect have no independent existence, and because of this *yutasiddhy abhava* need not be thought of as either "connected" or "dis

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<sup>26</sup> Thus, as in Buddhism, both temporal and eternal in the world and not of it. "The characteristic of the traditional solution of the space-time problem is that reality is both *in and out of space*, both *in and out of time*" (Wilbur Urban, *The Intelligible World*, p. 270)

<sup>27</sup> This is a proposition quite different from Descartes' *Cogito ergo sum*, where the argument is based on behaviour and leaves us still in an ego-centric predicament. Kanada's "I" refers to what the author of the *Book of Privy Counselling* calls "the naked blind feeling of thine own being not clad with any quality of thy being"

<sup>28</sup> Thus both one and many, as in SB 10.5.2.16, one really, and many only logically, as for the Vedānta, *passim*. Plato's "nature that assumes all bodies" (*Timaeus* 50 A, B), Rumi's "one single soul that is nominally manifold in relation to bodies" (*Mathnawi*, 4.414-8)

of the ultimate reality without further reference to Kaṇada<sup>30</sup>

In RV *anu* occurs only as an adjective, "fine", qualifying the "fingers" that prepare and qualify the Soma. But *anu* (*वेत्तव*) as "axle point" is significant in I 35 6 where "as upon the axle point of the [cosmic] chariot stand fast the immortals" (*anum na rathyam amrtadhu tasthuh*)<sup>31</sup> and since the "axle" here must be identified with the pneumatic Axis Mundi (RV 10 85 12 *vyano aksah*), its "point" corresponds to Dante's "punto dello stelo a cui la prima rota va dintorno da quel punto depende il cielo e tutta la natura" (*Paradiso* 13 11 + 17 17), and the proposition really answers the (perfectly intelligible) question, "How many angels can stand on the point of a needle?" Elsewhere *anu* stands for the "fine point" or "subtle essence" of anything, as in JUB 3 10 3 where the Brahman Kaṇḍviya is looked down upon because he "did not seek for what is atomic in the Saman (*anu samnah*), in which respect Pracīnasali surpassed him", Kaṇḍviya had "missed the point". Atomicity and immensity are attributed simultaneously to the ultimate reality in

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<sup>30</sup> For an excellent and much fuller discussion of Indian atomism see A B Keith, *Indian Logic and Atomism*, Oxford, 1921. The subject is very difficult and in so far as the question is one of material (elemental) atomicity or particularity has no very important bearing on the doctrine of time and eternity. Keith considers it possible that the Indian theory may be partly of Greek origin but has no decided view.

<sup>31</sup> *Ānim na rathyam adhi iva ara iva rathanabhau samhata jatra* Muṇḍ Up 2 2 6

which these two, and all, extremes meet; and this implies at the same time a total and omnipresence, and the coincidence in eternity of whatever is everlasting with whatever is now,—sicut erat in principio. "Less than the atoms (*anubhyo'nu*), in whom the worlds and their inhabitants are set, that is the imperishable Brahma, Truth (*satyam, tò ðr*), Immortal ... At once immense and very subtle, that is this atomic Self" (*brhad-ça ... sūkṣmataram ... cso'çur ātmā*, Mund. Up 2.2 2 + 3.1.7, 9)<sup>32</sup>. This Universal Self, when it inhabits any seed, is "of merely atomic measure" (*anāmātrika*, Manu 1.56); "that imperceptible minutium (*anīman*) that you cannot detect in the seed by dissection, but from which the whole tree grows, that intangible taste as of salt in water, that is the Truth (*satyam, tò ðr*), that is Self (*ātman*), that art thou" (CU. 6 12, 13): "When a mortal has torn away all that exists (*dharmyam*)<sup>33</sup> and hath obtained Him, the atomic (*anum etam āpya*), then is he glad" (KU. 2 13); "less than an atom, greater than immensity" (*anor anīyān, mahato mahīyān*, KU. 2 20, Svet Up 3 20, cf. 5 9), "less than a grain of rice .. greater than these

<sup>32</sup> On this cf BrSBh 2.3 19 29 on the *anātva* and *mahattva*, minuteness and immensity of the Self. The Yogi who makes himself a master of the elements can reduce himself to this minutium or attain magnitude at will (*Yoga Sūtra* 3 45).

<sup>33</sup> *Dharmyam* here in its ontological, existential or sensational sense, with reference to "things" (as rightly maintained by Keith, *Religion and Philosophy of the Veda*, 1925, p. 547), and as in the Buddhist propositions, "all things are impermanent" (*sabbe dhamma aniccā*, S 3 132 etc.), "things originated causally" (*hetusampannā dhamma*, A 3 444).

worlds" (CU 3 14 3), "indivisible, enduring, omnipresent, stable, immoveable, immutable" (*acchedyo*<sup>34</sup> *nityah sarvagatah sthanur acalo avikaryah*, BG 2 24, 25)

Such formulations are not at all peculiarly Indian for example, Dionysius explains that "greatness is attributed in the Scriptures to God and Smallness, or Rarity" [= *anutva* or *sukṣmata*] respectively with reference to His transcendence and His immanence (*De div nom* 9 1), and Philo's "the Spirit of God, atomic (*τὸ ἄτμητον*), indivisible, diffused in its fulness in and through all beings" (*Gig* 28) is almost verbally identical with the passage cited from the *Bhagavad Gita*

If now the ultimate reality,—that Brahma, and Truth, that is the target of our aim (*Muṇḍ Up* 2 2 2)—is so minute, if the *Janua Coeli*<sup>35</sup> is so tiny as to be imperceptible to deluded men and visible only to those who have overcome anger and mastered the powers of the soul (*svargam dvaram suṣukṣmam tam tu pasyanti puruṣa jitakrodha jitendriyah*, Mbh 14 2784 5 cf CU 8 6 5, MU 6 30), so also must be, and such also is, the Way that leads to and through it, "the ancient narrow (*anu* = *sukṣma*) path whereby the Contemplatives, knowers of Brahma, enter in, liberated hence on high to the world of heavenly light" (*svargam lokam ita urdhvam vimuktah*, BU 4 4 8) The Self, in other words, is the razor edged Bridge that holds these

<sup>34</sup> *Acchedya* the literal Skt equivalent of *ἄτομος*, although we have also translated *anu* 'minute', by 'atomic'

<sup>35</sup> For the *Janua Coeli* see further my 'Svayamāttṛnā Janua Coeli' in *Zalmoxis* 2, 1941

worlds apart and that must be crossed by all who would reach the Farther Shore, trans-etherial, hyperuranian<sup>36</sup>. As in the Christian Gospels: "I am the way ... I am the door ... No man cometh to the Father save by me ... Enter ye in at the strait gate ... Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it".

It is against the background of all these contexts that we shall have to consider the Buddhist doctrine of the instant moment (*Lhaṇa* = *ikšana*, "glance", cf *nimesa*) Before doing so, it should be noted that "time" (*kala*) is employed in the passages quoted above both in the plural with reference to *periods* of time, and in the singular to denote the *point* of time from which duration extends both backwards and forwards and that is, therefore, at once the beginning and end of time.

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<sup>36</sup> For the Bridge, see D L Coomaraswamy, "The Perilous Bridge of Welfare" in *HJAS* 8, 1944 Additional references *Setu vuccati maggo*, VA 180 RV 1 158 3, V 84 2, 7 35 13 (*peru*), TS 1 3 8 (*peru*) and 6 3 6 8 "for he (Agni) is the warden of the waters who is offered up in the sacrifice" *Bhaktamala*, "the causeway which God hath built for His lieg men from this world to the next" (Sir G A Grierson in *JRAS* 1910 p 93), BrSBh 1 3 1, 3 2 31 in Borneo *JAOS* 25, p 235, M Smith *Al Ghazali the Mystic* pp 77, 78, 143 (the Rational Soul "is the Divine bridge stretched between the brutes who are unmixed evil and the angels who are unmixed good As it descended from the heavens so it will reascend thither and at the last pass away into the Divine Majesty"), H R Ellis, *The Road to Hel*, 1943, p 186 ("golden bridge"), B de Zoete and W Spies, *Dante and Drama in Bali*, p 106, H B Alexander, *Mythology of All Races* X, N Am Indian, pp 6, 273, Nicholson, Rumi, *Mathnawi* 1 3700, Commentary (*sirat*)

we have distinguished "time" as period from "Time" as principle by the use of the capital for the latter. There is nothing peculiar in the verbal ambiguity of the word *kala*, it is the same in English and in Arabic, where "time" and *waqt* may refer either to *periods* of time (whether long or short) or precisely to a *point* of time (as when we ask, What time is it *now*?) It may be noted that *ksana* and *nimesa* may refer either to "brief moments" (measurable units of time) or to moments without duration, according to the context<sup>37</sup>

In the latter sense *Nimisa*, "Twinkling of an Eye", as a name of God, is implied by the *naumisayah*, "people of the moment", of CU 1 2 13, where the reference is to sacrificers, and may be compared to the Islamic designation of the true Sufi as *ibnu'l waqt*, "a son of the moment"<sup>37a</sup>

<sup>37</sup> E W Hopkins, "Epic-Chronology", *JAOS* 24, 1903, 7-55, cf *AJP* 24, 1ff

<sup>37a</sup> Cf St Augustine, *Conf* 7 17, where human reasoning finally "in one tremulous stroke of vision arrived at That which is but I could not hold the vision" (pervenit ad id, quod est, in ictu trepidantis aspectus sed aciem figere non evalu) This "stroke of vision" corresponds to the "twinkling of an eye" in which the world was created, when God "made all things at once" (*De genesi contra Manicheos* 1 2 4 and *De genesi ad litteram* 4 34 55),--the "six days" referring only to the logical order of creation, and not to any sequence of divine acts. In other words, God is always creating the world "now, this instant", and it is only to creatures of time that the creation presents itself as a series of events, or "evolution"

For some discussion of these passages see M H Carre, *Realists and Nominalists*, Oxford, 1946, p 7 and John Goheen, *The Problem of Matter and Form in the De Ente et Essentia of Thomas Aquinas*, Cambridge, Mass 1940, pp 43, 44



## II

### BUDDHISM

Early Buddhism, both in the Canon and as interpreted by Buddhaghosa, emphasizes the inconstancy and the extreme brevity of life under any conditions, in a word, its mortality in the sense that "all change is a dying" (Plato, *Euthydemus* 284 D, Eckhart, Evans ed. I. 384); and asserts unequivocally the unreality of "beings" (*satta*)<sup>1</sup> and of the "self" (*attā*)<sup>2</sup>, although

<sup>1</sup> S 1 135 *evam khandesu santesu hoti satto ti, sammāti . nayidha satt' ūpalabbhati*; Mīl 72 *n'atthi koci satto yo imamha kāyā aññam kāyam sankamaṭi*, 268 *na paramatthena satt'ūpaladdhi* D 3 211 *sabbe satta sankharatthika* S 1.97 *sabbe satta marissanti*,—cf Aristotle, *De an* 3 6 τὸ γὰρ πρῶτον, ἐν οὐρανῶσι δέ. Just as much as the modern positivist, the Buddhist regards "individuality" as nothing but a transitory association of sensuous data, mere name and phenomenon, and "the very mother of illusions", but at the same time denies absolutely that all that "is my Self". It should be needless to say that the postulated "self" (*attā*) or Ego (*aham*) is other than the Self to which the Buddha "resorts" (S 3 143, D 2. 120), other than the "plenary, great 'I'" (*pūṇam aham mahā*, *Vivekacūḍāmanī* 240), other than the "I" that is "proper to none but God in his sameness" (Meister Eckhart) On the two "I's" cf *JAOS* 67, 1947, pp 69, 70

<sup>2</sup> Nothing that can be named or sensed is a real "Self". When the Freedman realises that in the postulated "self" there is no

both are permissible terms when postulated merely for practical, everyday purposes<sup>3</sup>

“Brief is the life of human beings none to whom death cometh not” (S 1 108, cf A 4 136) Even of a Brahma, whose day is of a thousand years, is said that “his life is little, not for long” (S 1 143) “Life is like a dewdrop a bubble on the water” (A 4 137, cf D 2 246 f),—“like a dewdrop on the tip of a blade of grass when the sun rises, such is the lifetime of men Mother! do not hinder me” (Vism 231), i.e. do not hold me back from the Path “In the last analysis, the moment of the life (*jivita khano*) of beings is just as over brief (*atiparitto*)<sup>4</sup> as the turning of a single thought, like the turning of a chariot wheel, which turns by means of just one place on its rim, and stands still by means of only one, so is the life of beings that of a single moment of thought, and when this ends the being is said to have ended As it has been said, ‘In the past thought moment one lived in the future thought-

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veritable Selfhood and no longer sees Self in what is not Self, then he “no longer worries about what is unreal” (*asata na paritassati*, M 1 135)

<sup>3</sup> The pragmatic validity and real invalidity of the postulates corresponds to the distinction of relative transactional (*vo harika*) and conventional (*sammuti = sammata*, or perhaps = *samyuti*, “contingent”) from absolute (*paramatthika*) truth The affirmative language of postulation applies literally only to the world of accidents (D 2 63) and can only be employed analogically or negatively to ultimate reality

<sup>4</sup> Cf A 1 249 where the little self (of which the “life” is referred to above) is *paritto*, the Great Self *aparitto* On *√ric* see my “*Ūnatiriktāu and Atyaricyata*”, NIA 6 52-56

moment one will live in the present thought moment one is alive',

'Life, the self ish nature (*atta bhava*), pleasure and pain, all<sup>5</sup>

Are conjunct (*samayutta*) in a single thought, and its moment passes lightly'<sup>6</sup>

Such is the 'Recollection of Death' in terms of the 'Brevity of the Moment'" (*Vism* 238)

"Connatural are life and its theft<sup>7</sup> Beings are born bearing in themselves inveteration and death For indeed their recurrent thinking is infected with inveteration coincidentally with its origination, like a stone that falls from a mountain top, it breaks up together with the aggregates of which it is composite, so that instant death (*khanika maranam*)<sup>8</sup> is connatural with advent" (*Vism* 1 230) In other words, birth and death are not unique events of any contingent existence, but of the very stuff (*evam-dhammo*) of "life", and this liability, of which a particular birth and death are only special cases, is precisely that "reincarnation" (*puna bhava, -agamana*) from which a final escape is sought, immortality (*amata*) and life or becoming (*bhava*) are

<sup>5</sup> "All", i.e. the passible five fold composite "that is not my Self" (*na me so atta*), passim

<sup>6</sup> *Eka-citta vattate (j'vrt) khano* implying that *citta-vrtti* "turning, or inconstancy, of thought" that the *Yogi* seeks to suppress. The mind is always on the move, and hence often compared to a monkey

<sup>7</sup> "Theft", i.e. by the "robber", or "waylayer", or 'hunter', Death

<sup>8</sup> Not 'sudden death' at the end of one's life, but "instant death" all through it

not compossibles, but incompatible, "the cessation of becoming is Nibbana" (S 2 117) "As between one thought and the next (*citt'antaro*), such is a mortal" (A 5 300) "Could a man be called 'quick' who could so run as to catch in the air arrows loosed at the same time by four master archers? Quicker than that is the wearing out of the composite factors of life" (S 2 266), "All that is born, whatever is become, is corruptible" (*palokadhammam*, S 5 163) It is in this sense that "the Buddha looks upon the world in momentary (*khane khane*) dissolution" (Dpvs 1 16)<sup>9</sup>

"Four and eighty thousand aeons the Maruts abide, and yet abide not even for so long as for the sequence of two thoughts In the present lives the world, and with the break up of a thought it dies (*paccuppanena jivali cittabhanga mato loka*)<sup>10</sup> From the unseen come forth born beings, and broken-up pass into the unseen, like a flash of lightning in the ether they arise and pass away" (Vism 625, 626)

Time (*samaya*, "co ition") is past (*atita*, "over gone"), future (*anagata*, "un come"), or present (*paccuppanna*, "up come") The present has three senses, that of the moment (*khana*) in which there meet forth coming, stasis and break down (*uppada tthiti bhanga*

<sup>9</sup> Buddhaghosa derives *loka* from *luj palaj* to decay, be dissolved (Vism 427)

<sup>10</sup> Similarly in MU 6 17 and 6 34 43 'this world measured by a thought the conflux, just a thought' (*idam citta matram cittam-eva samsaram*), i.e. lasts only for so long as a thought though it may also be meant that it is "of the stuff of thought" conceptual

*pattam*), that of the continuation (*santati-*), i.e. "now" in the extended and usual meaning of the word, and that of road (*addha*)<sup>11</sup> in the sense of span of life, whether long or short, and of these three presents, the first is included in the second, and the second in the third. The becoming of the five-fold aggregates, i.e. of "beings", or "selves", takes place in the course of all these "times" (*Vism* 431, 473)

Observe that the Stasis is only momentary, not in the continuing present, except in the sense that the moments are surrounded by the continuum, "as it might be a mountain torrent flowing swiftly from afar and carrying everything along with it, and there is no moment, pause, or minute (*khaṇo, layo, muhutto*) in which it comes to rest"<sup>12</sup>, even so is the life of men

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<sup>11</sup> In its most extended sense the Road (*addha*) as distinct from the Way (*magga*) much, indeed, as "byway" from "highway" is that whole extent of the past habitations (*pubba nivasa*) that were "not my Self", but in which, already, more tears have been shed than would fill the sea. "It is through not understanding failing to penetrate, the Four Ariyan Truths (of Ill its origin and its eradication, and the Way) that we have run and wandered on this long road both you and I. How is a Monk a 'Wayman'? In that he is moving fast on this long road to where he has not yet been there where there is a cessation of all composites a relinquishing of all conditions, a waning out of thirst an absence of gust an arrest of becoming, Nibbāna. There is no surcease of Ill until World's End has been reached' (*D* 2.60 *A* 3 164 and 2 49)

<sup>12</sup> Cf. Plutarch, *Mor* 432 A, B (on the stream of Time) In my *Figures of Speech or Figures of Thought*, 1946, p. 159, n. 10 (on *kṣanika nairatmadī*) I erred in speaking of existence as "not a continuity but a succession of unique instants

brief and light (*parittam lahukam*). . or like the mark made by a stick on water. For the born there is no 'not dying'"<sup>13</sup> (A 4 137) Buddhaghosa's three momentary accidents (*uppada, thiti, bhanga*)<sup>14</sup> are the same as the "forthcoming, maturity, and alteration or dying (*uppada, vayo, aññathatta*)<sup>15</sup> of things while

of consciousness" The Buddhist doctrine is one of "continuity without identity", and it is because of *both* that the question, Is it the same man or another that reaps what has been sown, cannot be answered by a simple Yes or No

<sup>13</sup> Aristotle's *του αυτοῦ και γενεοις και φθορα*, *Met* 11 12 8

<sup>14</sup> *Vism* 404—405, where it is asked whether in the case of one who visits the Brahma world in an invisible, mental body, he does this "in the moment of the forthcoming or moment of stability or moment of break up of the resolute thought" of going there, and answered that he goes "in all three moments", which is as much as to say that they are not three consecutive moments, but one It has been previously explained that if he goes in a visible body the journey takes some time, "for the body moves slowly"

<sup>15</sup> Aristotle's *αὐξησης, ακμη* and *φθοις* dependent on food, *De an* 3 12, *AA* 2 1 2 *annena himani sarvani bhutani samananti*, *Taitt Up* 2 2 *annad vai praja prajayante*, *D* 3 211 *sabbe salla āharatthika*, *S* 1 97 *sabbe satta marissantu* "All change is a desistance from a nature", Aristotle *Phys* 4 13, 222 B, cf 4 12, 221 B "All change is a dying", Plato, *Euthydemus* 283 D, 285 B, and Meister Eckhart (Evans ed 1 384), "Alteratio est via ad generationem et corruptionem", St Thomas Aquinas, *De mixt elementorum*, ed Parma 16 353, cf *Sum Theol* I 105 2 and I-II 113 7 ad 1

It can hardly be overlooked, also, that the three phases of existence, *srsti*, *sthiti* and *laya* that are resumed in every instant,<sup>1</sup> are the respective functions of the Trinity of Brahmā, Vishnu and Siva in so far as they are logically distinguished from "the unity of the Person"

they last" (*phitanam*) predicated in S 3 137, the same, too, as the "procession, stasis and recession" (*gati, sthiti, nivrtti*) that are synthesised in Time, SĀ 7 20, and as the "efflux, maturity, and Heimgang" (*srava, vṛddhi, astam gamana*) of which the Time without time, Brahma to wit, is the inexhaustible font (MU 6 14), and these three are characteristic of whatever is composite (*samkhatam*) but not of what is incomposite (*asamkhatam*, A. 1 152)<sup>16</sup>,—and emphatically *not* of the Buddha's "incomposite Eternal Law" (*asamkhatam dhammam*, A 4 359), *not* of Nibbana (*asamkhatam*, Mil 270), *not* of that home (*ayatanam*) "where there is neither coming nor going nor stopping, nor falling nor uprising, no this world and that world, no support, no motion, no inception" nor of that "unborn, unbecome, uncreated, incomposite that *is*, and were it not, there would be no way of escape from the born, become, created and composite" (Ud 80)<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Incomposite, i.e. 'simple' "intellectus noster in cognitionem simplicium pervenire non potest nisi per remotionem compositionis aeternitas non varietur per praesens praeteritum et futurum" (St Thomas Aquinas, *Sum Theol* I 10 1 and 2, cf. *Sum contra gentiles* I 15), "igitur vita eius non habet successionem sed est *tota simul* Est igitur sempiterna" (*Sum contra gentiles* I 99) I would add *nisi simul*, quomodo omnisciens?

<sup>17</sup> It will not be overlooked that all these negative terms, having *nibbana* and *dhamma* as their reference, are equally such as are applied to God *secundam viam remotionis* in Christianity, cf., for example, *Sum contra gentiles* I, cc. 14, 15 18, 23 89 God is immutable, incomposite without accidents, impossible etc

*Πάντα ῥεῖ* Heraclitus, fr XLI, "You cannot dip your feet twice into the same rivers, for other waters are ever flowing in"· *sabbe dhamma anicca* (S 3 132) That all things—note the plural—are in flux is no more a denial of the real stability of that which is not a "thing" than is the Buddha's destructive analysis of the composite "self", always followed by the words, "that is not my Self", a denial of the Self As Aristotle (*Met* 4 5 7 and 15f) points out, there can be "also another kind of essence of things that are, wholly devoid of destruction and generation" It cannot be shown that Heraclitus ever explicitly or implicitly denied this, "all things" flow, no doubt, but there is a one and only Wisdom is distinct from "all things" (fr XVIII),—not one of them, and if, as Ritter and Preller say, the "Ever-living Fire" is such that *unde manat omnis motus*, this does not mean that itself is moved Aristotle had absolutely no grounds for accusing "these men" of the belief that "sensibilia are the only realities" In Buddhism the reality of an unmoved, incomposite nature is explicitly asserted over against the evanescence of the composite transients, and when Aristotle goes on to say "it is only the realm of sense around us which continues subject to destruction and generation, but this is a practically negligible part of the whole" (*ib* 22), this might just as well have been said by the Buddha himself!

That there is "no moment in which the river rests" shows clearly that time is not to be thought of as "made of" a succession of stops, but as a continuum (*santana*), the indivisible moment is immanent in time,



but not a part of time, just as for Aristotle "time is not composite of atomic nows, any more than any other magnitude is made up of atoms" (*Phys* 6 9 239 B, cf 8 8, 262 A)

Inasmuch as all change is a dying, it is from the inconstancy (*anicca*) of life and thought that the Wayfarer seeks to be emancipated,—“seeking for stability” (*aññutam nissaya*, A 3 219) As we have seen above, Stasis is predicated only in the moment (*khana*) or in the Time (*kala*) without time that is Brahma—that Brahma and Dhamma that the Freedman, *dhamma bhuto, brahma bhuto*, D 3 84, S 3 93) “has become”, but we have not yet drawn the obvious conclusion that these two are one and the same, though be it noted that in one the past and future *meet*, and from the other *flow*, and that both are *without duration* What are we, then, to understand by such expressions as “one whose thought is stable” (*thita-citto* D 2 157, S 5 74) “one whose self is stable” (*thit'atta*, D 1 57, S 3 55, and notably Sn 359 *parinibbutam thit'attam*) and “stable, motionless” (*thito anejo*, Th 1 372), “as in the ocean's midmost depth no wave is born, but all is still, so for the Monk, who's still and does not move (*thito anejo*), nor should he swell at all”<sup>18</sup> (Sn 920), or by statements such as that “‘having crossed, and reached the Farther Shore (*Nibbana*), and stands’ (*tisṭhati*), ‘an Arahant’ is meant” (S 4 17c, cf Sn 946), or that

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<sup>18</sup> ‘Du solt sin stete unde veste, daz ist dô solt gelich stan liebes und leides gelukes und ungelukes” (Meister Eckhart, Pfeiffer p 71)

“having overpast inveteration and death, they ‘stand’”  
(*thassanti*, S. 2. 46) <sup>19</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> “Stability is the peculiar property of eternity” (Marsilio Ficino, *Commentary on Plato’s Symposium* IV 16) “Men saw these two things [body and soul, i.e. *saviññāna-kāya*], pondered them, investigated both of them, and found that each is mutable in man. The body is mutable in its various ages, in its corruption, its ailments, its reflections and its defections, its life, its death. They passed to the soul, which they certainly comprehended as being the better, and also wondered at as being invisible. But they found it too to be mutable, now willing something, now not willing, now knowing, again not knowing, now remembering, again forgetting, now fearing, again daring, now advancing in wisdom, again relapsing into folly. They saw that it was mutable, they left it too, and went in search of something that should be immutable. And thus they arrived at a cognition of God the Creator by means of the things which He created. Examine the mutations of things and thou wilt everywhere find ‘has been’ and ‘shall be’. Think on God and thou wilt find ‘is’ where ‘has been’ and ‘will be’ cannot be” (St Augustine, *Sermo* CCXLI 3 3 + *In Joan Evang* LXXVIII 10, versions by Erich Przywara, S J), further, “clarum est eam [animam] esse mutabilem” (*De ver. rei* XXX 54), “non quidem localiter, sed tamen temporaliter” (ib X 18), “anima vero jam ipsa crearetur” (*De Gen. ad litt.* VII 24 35) and “omnia quae fecit, quia ex nihilo fecit, mutabilia sunt” (*De nat. boni*, I 1). But “Quod autem incipit aut desinit vivere, vel in vivendo successionem patitur, mutabile est” (St Thomas Aquinas, *Sum. contra gentiles*, I 99), and more generally, “whatever has had a beginning must have an end” (Aristotle, *Phys.* 3 4, 203 B, *Samyutta Nikaya* 4 46). How, then, can “the” soul be or become “immortal”? Only if, with St Thomas, Plato, Philo and the Upaniṣads, we recognize that “duo sunt in homine”, respectively mortal and immortal by nature,—a created “soul” subject to accidents, and an uncreated “Soul of the soul” above them. St Augustine asks, in fact, “how

The answer in terms of time is that the Buddha, identified with the Dhamma, must be, like the Dhamma, "simple" (*asamkhata*, A. 4 359) and by the same token "timeless" (*akaliko*, A. 4 406). The Freedman, in fact, "transcends the aeons"<sup>20</sup> (*kappātito . . . vipamutto*, Sn

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is it that reason (*ratio* = *λόγος*) is immortal, and that I am defined as something both rational and mortal at the same time?" and reflects, "if reason is immortal, and if I who analyze and synthesize all these [temporal] things, am reason, then that by which I am called mortal is not 'mine' . . . and we ought to fly from the mortal to the immortal" (*De ordine* II 50)

If we bear in mind that "Dhamma" (*δικαιοσύνη*, *Justitia*, *Lex Aeterna*) is one of the Divine Names (*dhamma* and *brahma* being interchangeable terms in the Upanisads and the Pali Canon), it will be seen that Augustine's words might as well have been those of the Buddha himself, both were "intensely sensitive to the pathos of mutability". St Augustine's "then that by which I am called mortal is not mine" corresponds exactly to the Pali *tam n'etam mama, n'eso'ham asmi, na me so attā*

<sup>20</sup> On the incalculable length of the aeons (*kappa*), in their sequences of hundreds and thousand for which no earliest point can be recognized, see S 2 178-193, ending with the words, "Impermanent are all composites the nature of which is to originate and age, and having arisen, then to perish, to have done with them is bliss"

An aeon (*kalpa*) qua *saeculum*, is properly speaking a "day of Brahma" consisting of a thousand yugas or 4320 million human years, in his days and nights successive worlds are manifested and dissolved. The life-span of a Brahma is a hundred years made up of such days. It is from even this "brief" life that the Buddha teaches a "further escape". But it should be noted that *kappa* (*√k'p*, related to *kr*) is also "concept" or "multiple arrangement", *κοσμος*, (cf RV 10 90 11 *katidha vi akalpaṣan*?) and conversely MU 6 30 *nihśamkalpo*

373), "not a man of the aeons" (*akkapiyo*, Sn 860), "they call him 'awake' (*buddha*) who discerns the

*nirabhumanas tisthet*), i.e. *prapanca*, and that just as a Wake is *nippapañca* "unelaborate", so *akkapiyo* (Sn 914 etc) is not only *ex tempore* but also "other than whatever is conceivable *seriatim*", transcendent not only with respect to "times" but also with respect to temporalia

The "former habitations" and past aeons are all immediately present to a Buddha who can pounce upon them like a lion or reach them like an arrow its mark, others need to look backward through the ages, one or myriad according to their ability, but a Buddha or Arahant envisages past or future aeons directly (*Vism* 411) It as if they formed a circle (beginningless and endless cycle) of which he is the centre, no farther from one than from any other point on the circumference, while others, less adept, must work their way backward along the circumference if they are to see any past time

When just above (*Vism* 410) Buddhaghosa speaks of the remembering of "how *I* was then So and so, of such and such a family, etc", and of the past conditions as being those "in one's own continuum" (*attano samtane*)—or better perhaps, "one's own lineage"—this is said "conventionally" (*samucca*), not in very truth (*paramatthena*) for any well taught Buddhist monk knows better than to ask, What was *I* in a former life or What am *I* now, or What shall *I* be in the future? For he sees things "as become", i.e. strictly in terms of causal process and only speaks of an "*I*" for practical convenience in everyday life (*S* 2 26, *D* 1 202) Similarly in *D* 1 81 the analogy of *cuti* and *upapatti* to the case of a man who goes to another village and again returns to his own (the "villages" being this and yonder worlds, as in *CU* 8 6 2) would be a heresy if taken literally, as is explicit in *Pv* 4 3 31 The three modalities of personality (*atta bhava*), past, present, and future, are mere conventional terms of every speech, not ultimate realities (*D* 1 202) In just the same way for the *Yoga Sutra* (2 39 and 4 35), the contemplation of one's

acons, the flux of things in which they fall and rise . . . , one for whom birth (*jāti = bhava, γένεσις*) is at an end" (Sn. 517). For such as these, explicitly, "there is neither past nor future" (*na tassa paccha na purattham atthi*, S. 1. 111); a Buddha's "recollection" does not operate by a following up of the sequences of births and deaths in time, but siezes immediately and

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former personalities (*ātma bhāṣā*) may be a profitable exercise in the earlier stages of a Yogins' development, but one who no longer confuses *sattva* with Self will never propound such questions as "Who was I?", etc Reincarnation, in other words, is a *façon de parler*, not really a matter of persistent individualities

It should be observed that the Buddhist "double truth" (*sammūti-, loka-voḥāra, loka-niruttīyo*, etc and on the other hand *paramattha saccam*; corresponding to the Vedantic *avidyā* and *vidyā, vikāra-* and *paramarthika satyam*), one relative and conventional, the other absolute and certain, correspond to the distinction of metaphysics from "philosophy" (in the narrow sense of the word), and to Plato's distinction of "such knowledge as has a beginning and varies as it is associated with one or another of the things that we nowadays call realities" from "the knowledge that abides in that which is absolutely real" (*Phaedrus* 247 E), and distinction of "true opinion" from "truth", parallel to that of becoming from being (*Timaeus* 27 D, 28 A) The probability of the relative truths can be established by repeated observation, and such are the statistical "laws of nature" discovered by science, but behind the experience of order "there is a further cause of that which is 'always so'", it is because of *eternity* that "there never was or will be any *time* when movement was not or will not be"; but such a first cause, being itself uncaused, is not *probable* but axiomatic (Aristotle, *Phys* VIII 1 252 B),—i. e. "self-revealing", *sva prakāsa*, "self-evident"

instantly upon whatever situation in whatever time the Buddha chooses to perceive (Vism. 411), that is to say, all times are present to a Buddha's instant glance.

"Where there is neither past no future" must and can be only *Now*<sup>21</sup>. It is true that for beings in time the momentary now (*khana*) is ever present. But the word, in the sense of "right time" means also opportunity, i.e. gateway and although as such this interval<sup>22</sup> is continually opened and closed again as time passes<sup>23</sup>, what if the instant opportunity is never seized? From this point of view the Buddha counsels: "Get ye across this sticky-mire, let not the Moment pass (*khano ve mā upaccaga*), for they shall mourn

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<sup>21</sup> "Ubi futurum et praeteritum coincidunt cum praesenti", Nicolas of Cusa, *De visione Dei*, c X.

<sup>22</sup> *Inter-vallum* the "needle's eye" and "strait gate" in the wall of Paradise, "locum cinctum contradictoriorum coincidentia, et iste est murus Paradisi, in quo [tu Domine] habitas, cuius portam, custodit spiritus altissimus rationis, qui nisi vincatur, non patebit ingressus" (Nicolas of Cusa, *De visione Dei*, c IX)

<sup>23</sup> Past and future being, in fact, the Symplegades or Clashing Rocks, and separated only by the now-without-duration through which the Hero (*mahāvīra*) finds his way, in other words, the jambs of the "Doorway of Immortality" (*amatassa dvārā*, M. 1. 226, cf Vin. 1 7) that the Buddha (Brahma-become and the Giver of Immortality, A 4 226, S 4 94) threw open to his followers, and of the Sundoor, of which it is asked, "Who is able (*arhatti*, cf RV 10. 60 40 *arhanā*) to pass through it",—i.e. is able to take the way of the "unobstructed Sāman, or otherwise, the Lightning" (ib 1 30 2, 4), which "Sāman", as explained above, is to be thought of as the "Harmony" of the past and future forms, *sā* and *ama*

whose Moment's past" <sup>24</sup> (*khanatita hi socanti*, Sn 333, cf Dh 315, Tha 403, 653, 1005, Thi 5, 459), and that he congratulates those of the Monks "whose Moment has been caught" (*khano vo patiladdho*) and commiserates those "whose Moment has past" (*khanūṭita*, S 4, 126) <sup>25</sup> Cf *Anth Pal* 16 275 on the passing Moment

The moment of release is sudden (*sub it aneus*, "going stealthily") comparable, in fact, to that of an arrow loosed without further effort from the bow to pierce all obstacles and penetrate its mark, being already "that-become" (*tad-bhuta*, i.e. *brahma bhuta*), when the archer's stance, grip and draw are correct,—the arrow corresponding to the Self and the target to Brahma (Mil 418 + Mund Up 2 1 1—4) and the adequacy of this trope (*upama*) is so far precise that it extends to the use of the same verbs whether the archer be in fact a Bowman or a "target piercing" (*akkhana vedhin*) <sup>26</sup> Monk,—viz. *samdhā*, "synthesise" applied to the setting up of the bow and the placing (*yoga*) of the arrow, which can

<sup>24</sup> Almost exactly as William Blake's

" he who kisses the joy as it flies  
Lives in eternity's sunrise  
But, if once you let the ripe moment go  
You can never wipe off the tears of woe"

<sup>25</sup> It must not be overlooked, of course, that *khana* has also the meaning of "opportunity" present during a relatively short period of time, as in Thi 459 where Sumedhā says, "This is an age of the Buddhas, gone is the absence of opportunity, the moment's seized!" (*virajjito akkhaṇo, khano laddho*)

<sup>26</sup> *Akkhana* = Skr *akṣana* "target", in JUB 1 60 7, 8 and CU I 2, 7, 8, and is not to be connected etymologically with *khana* "moment"

therefore be thought of as "in *samadhi*"<sup>27</sup>, *muc*, "loose", with reference to the liberation of the arrow or the Self, and *vyadh*, "penetrate" (in some forms identical with *vid*, "know" or "find") with reference to the attainment of the archer's "aim"<sup>27</sup>

In the case of the Buddha and some other Arahants (cf Tha 173, Thi 627) the Awakening takes place at dawn, that is to say at a junction of times (*samdhi*), or twilight, when it is neither night (the prior form) nor day (the posterior form), and in this connection it is not insignificant that a synonym for *samdhi* is *brahma-bhuti*, "becoming Brahma" Even at any point of time, the event takes place at a conjunction of times past and future, and it is not without interest that the word *yoga* in its astronomical sense can be substituted for the "moment" of Awakening (Thi 4) The suddenness of the Awakening contrasts with the length of the Way, the aeonic time that is *now* and once for all escaped (much as the sudden release of the arrow contrasts with the archer's long training), and this is especially emphasized in the Mahayana, notably in Vasubandhu's *Abhisamayalankara*, where when the end of the long road has been reached, the Great Awakening (*abhisambodhi*) is "single-instantaneous" (*eka ksana*-)<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> See further my "Symbolism of Archery" in *Ars Islamica* 10, 1943

<sup>28</sup> E Obermiller, "The Doctrine of Prajñā paramita as exposed in the Abhisamayalamkara of Maitreya", *Acta Orientalia* 11 1933, pp 81, 82 *Abhi samaya*, "full attainment", may be more literally something like "super coincidence", as of "time" considered absolutely cf also *samavayatum* (co-ire), to "pass through" (the midst of the Sun), JUB I 6 1, suggesting an



The notion of "instantaneous [i.e. timeless] awakening" (*ekakṣanābhīśambodhi*) persists also in Tantrik Buddhism, where it is given, quite logically, a double significance, comparable to that of a point on the circumference of a circle, such a point being at one and the same time its beginning and end, alpha and omega. As beginning, the awakening is the instantaneous quickening<sup>29</sup> from which the development of the embryo proceeds to the conscious perception of the "net of contingency" (*māyājāla*) in the dimensioned (*nirmāna*) body. On the other hand, as already explained above, the instant or timeless Wakefulness from which generation (the descent of spirit into matter) proceeds is not only the first but also the last moment of the temporal cycle (*kāla-cakra*) of existence (*samsāra*), when consciousness returns to its source, evolution (*utpattikrama* = *pravṛtti*) and involution (*utpannakrama* =

equation of *abhisamaya* with *parayana* I substitute "single-instantaneous" for Obermiller's "momentary" because the latter word could be understood to mean "ephemeral" or "transient", which is not intended, "momentary" would be right for *khane khane*, but not for *eka ksane Eka ksana* corresponds to Sankara's *sadya* in *sadyo mukti*, BrSBh I 1 11, *sadya*, "this day", like *sakti*, "forthwith", "no sooner than", etc., cf. St Augustine, *De lib arb* III 25 77 *Milia dierum in temporis mutabilitate intelligantur, unus autem diei nomine in commutabilitas aeternitatis vocatur*

<sup>29</sup> Cf. Manu I 56 "When [the Great Self] becoming atomic (*anumatrīko bhūtvā*) and with a view to existence and motion inhabits the seed with which it is associated, then it assumes an actual form (*mūrtim vimuncati*)" The Tantra asserts the intemporal, Manu the undimensioned quality of the animating principle

*nivṛtti*) representing the two halves of the cycle of existence, whether cosmic or individual. So in yoga practise, of which the purpose is involutory, we find a contemplation on time, directed towards the immediate realisation of ever greater and greater durations and pursued until the whole of time can be experienced *now*. Inspiration and expiration<sup>30</sup> are correlated successively with day and night, fortnights, months, and so on, the procedure culminating in "a complete resolution of microcosmic time by the disciple who, having successively fixed his mind on ever greater periods of time and successively rid himself of them in the course of his breathing, comes at length to the great universal ævum, including all creation from its beginning to its reabsorption",—or rather, regeneration (*palingenesis*), for "this is the yogic rebirth, briefly and clearly described in the following quotation from *Ācalakṛatantra* "The birthplace of the Royal Conquerors is in one constant moment (*ekasmin-samaye'kṣare*)"<sup>31</sup>, when the 'heart' is established in the

<sup>30</sup> In Yoga practise, the in and out breaths are equated or identified, each being sacrificed in the other (BG 4 29 5 27) and that is, in the last analysis a realisation of the Supreme Identity of *Mitravarunau* who are both the in and-out breaths (ŚB 1 8 3 12) and day and night (TS 2 1 74) and of the Unity of the Gale (*Vāyu*) who blows as one but in man becomes these two the in and out breathing" (SB 1 8 3 12), "who bestows these breaths" (TS 2 1 1 3) and is in fact the "other whereby men live" (KU 5 5)

<sup>31</sup> *Aksara*, "still", "not fluent" from a Hindu point of view, a designation of *Brahma*, and of the syllable *OM* by which he is represented in verbal iconography

Great Breath, and actual breathing has ceased, when the physical sense powers are relinquished and the divine have arisen, when the natural planes have been left and the planes divine are seen, then I see All, Great King, then there is naught that is not always seen'" Having thus realised his own nature or intrinsic being (*svabhava*), become what he is, the Yogi "without any subjective-objective relation knows all because it [his essence] comprehends all in a geometric point (*bindu*) and in one instant (*eka kṣana*) Time is drowned in eternity" 32

Such a "control of the moments and their sequence" (*Yoga Sutra* 3 52) as this is the contemplative equivalent of the Vedic seasonal sacrifices by which Prajapati, the Year (Time) having been, by the act of creation, unstrung and dismembered into the parts of the year (time), i.e. days and nights, etc., of which the conjunctions are his broken "joints", is made whole and complete again 33, at the same time that the Sacrificer himself is reintegrated (*Satapatha Br* 1 6 3 35 and passim) "For because the year is a counterpart

<sup>32</sup> Mario E. Carelli *Sekoddesatika* Baroda 1941, Introduction pp 16 17 and Skr text p 7 (but the version of the *Kalacakrantra* passage is my own)

<sup>33</sup> These "joints" (*parvāni*) are (in a surgical sense) 're-set', or literally 'put together' or "synthesised", cf *ĀA* 7 20 where Time unites (*samdadhati*) past present and future times Things thus put together (*samhata*) are in *samadhi* in wholeness or health and this completes the cycle that began with their division and sickness (*vyadhī*) The separative act of creation is necessarily followed by the unitive (re-collective) process of involution complication by simplification

(image) of Prajapati, they call him the Year" (*ibid* 11 1 6 13), "the Year is everything, and that is what 'Imperishable' means" (*ibid* 11 1 2 12) "How many days are there in the year?" That depends upon the way it is divided, but "really, only one, the Year is just that day after day", and the Comprehensor of this doctrine of the Year himself becomes the Year" (*ibid* 12 2 2 23)

Except for the last references, the doctrine of the "Now that stands" has been dealt with so far only on the basis of the Hinayana. Many other scholars, notably Jacobi, Keith<sup>34</sup>, De la Vallee Poussin, and Stcherbatsky, have studied it only from the Mahayana sources, in which it is expanded, but certainly did not originate. All schools, of course, retain the doctrine of the causal efficacy of the past operative in the present. Keith, indeed, always assuming that the Buddha denied the reality of the Self—which he never did, but rather counselled men to "seek for" and "take refuge" in it (Vin 1 23, Vism 393, D II 120, S 3 143)—goes so far as to say that the Vaibhasika doctrine "interpolates the moment of existence (*sthiti*), which, it asserts, was suppressed by the Buddha be-

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<sup>34</sup> Although Keith himself asks respecting the Buddha's "unfathomable" nature predicated in S 4 374, etc., whether this 'is not to argue that the Tathagata apart from the mortal constituents is something real but ineffable?' and calls it "unwise to insist on seeing negativism in passages where another explanation is not merely possible, but probably more in accordance with the ideas of the teachers of the early Canon" (*Buddhist Philosophy in India and Ceylon*, 1923, p 26)

cause of the danger which it involved to the doctrine of impermanence"<sup>35</sup>, implausible, because the notion of a "permanent" Self and "impermanent" self involves no antinomy, and in any case the word *tthiti*, even in combination with *attā*, is by no means avoided in the Canon, where also the verbs *titthanti* and *ñhassanti* (as cited above) are used of Arahants, nor can there be any question but that the Dhamma, with which the Buddha identified himself is an "eternal substance" (*akaliko dhatu*) For the Sautrantikas, whose very name implies their orthodoxy, "the true doctrine is that there is no distinction between the entity, the efficiency, and the time of its appearance, entities appear from non existence"<sup>36</sup>, they exist for a moment, then they cease to exist Their existence, activity, and action are

<sup>35</sup> A B Keith, *ibid* p 167

<sup>36</sup> "Which temporal things before they are, are not, and when they are, pass away, and when they are passed away, will not be And so, when they are future, they are not yet, and when past, no longer are" (St Augustine, *De lib arb* 3 7 21)

In RV 10 72, 2 *asatah sad aajata*, "the existent springs from non existence", cf CU 3 19 1, Taitt Up 2 7, where "non existent" means "not yet existing", "being in potentiality", *pragabhava* On the other hand, in the contrary formulae of TS 4 6 1 2, CU 6 2 1, 2 and BrSBh 2 1 17, 18, where being arises only from being "not from the non existent", the reference is to the fourth, *atyanta* absolute, kind of non existence, that of things that could never be, e.g "the son of a barren woman" In Aristotelian terms, "appearance from non existence (*pragabhava*)" would be "reduction from potentiality to act", and this is the sense in the beautiful prayer of BU 1 3 28, *asato ma sad gamaya* "Lead me from non existence unto existence" Cf also JAOS 66 154, n 30

all one ... Past and future are mere names<sup>37</sup>. All this involves, of course, the old doctrine of the Void (*sūn-jata*)<sup>38</sup> which Keith discusses in connection with the

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<sup>37</sup> A B Keith, *ibid* p 166 Rumi, *Mathnawi* 1 2201, "Past and future are to thee a curtain from God"

<sup>38</sup> Just as in the case of "destruction" (*khaya*) it must be asked, if the "Annihilationist Heresy" (*ucchedavada*) is to be avoided, just what can and should be destroyed (*Vism* 508), and as in the case of "escape" (*nissaranam*) it must be asked, From what, and To what, if we are to know what is meant, so in the case of the "void" (*suññam*) it must be asked, Of what? As Hermes Trismegistos says, "you must not call anything 'void', without saying what the thing in question is void of" (*Ascl* III 33 C), cf Aristotle, who points out that "to determine whether the 'void' (*το κενον*) 'is' or 'is not' we must know what those who use the word really mean by it. The current answer is 'a place in which there is nothing' But that is the explanation given by those who hold that nothing 'is' but 'matter' (*σωμα*), that which is 'tangible' (*αισθητον*) and yet no one supposes that they are thinking of the 'point' (*η στιγμη*) to which the definition really applies" (*Phys* 4 7, 213 B-213 A). It is only because such questions are not asked that so many a modern recoils from what he calls the "negativity" of Buddhist formulae, in reality, this *via negativa* implies a "transvaluation" of values, and not their destruction, and what the modern empiricist and "optimist" really resents is precisely the sacrifice that any transvaluation of values demands.

The Buddhist "Void" is empty of things that become and to which the language of affirmative empiricism really applies (D 2 63) "Freedom", though a good, is always a freedom *from* limitations or 'de void' of them.

On various senses of the term *suññata* see *Vism* 512 Note also that "Void" and "Plenum" are never unrelated, but rather coincide, cf Aristotle *Met* 1 4 9, 4 5 5, and references in my

Mādhyamikas, or Middle-Waymen, whose name again asserts their orthodoxy. For them "the doctrine of causation must be taken as referring only to the world of ignorance", i.e. opinion. This I take not only to mean that things only *happen* in time and space but also that cause and effect are not only transcendently but actually always simultaneous; we think of cause and effect as precedent and sequent because all logical formulation applies, in so far as language (the language of postulation) is employed affirmatively only to events (D. 1. 202). So we find it uneasy to understand just how a cause can operate at a distance<sup>39</sup>; how, if things exist only for a moment, can they work on one another? How can their order be explained? In fact, if we presume that acts are causes, then the orderly sequence of events will have to be explained by a "pre-established harmony", arbitrarily established; and this was the false position, into which the Islamic Mutakallemin

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"Kha and other words denoting Zero . . .", *BSOS* 7, 1934, pp. 487—497. This coincidence is implied by the Mahāyāna aphorism, *yas samsāras tan nirvānam*, and the words of the *Īśvara Pratyabhijñā Vimarsinī*, 1 193, *jac cid visesatvam tad sada-sivatattvam* are only saying the same in other words

<sup>39</sup> For example, when a plant, transferred from its original environment to another and different set of conditions, continues to flower in "its own" time regardless of the new conditions, this represents in it the working of a kind of memory that, as such, is "imperceptible" (*adrsta*) to human beings, who can investigate the distant causes in the plants original environment, but cannot "see" them as they still actually exist in the plant, in which cause and effect coincide at every "moment" of its growth

were forced by the logic of their own kind of atomism. The answer to all these difficulties is that causes never operate at a distance, but *are present* when and where their effects are seen<sup>10</sup>. Nothing of an act outlasts the act itself, but the action leaves its trace in the environment, which will for ever afterwards be other than it would have been if the event had not taken place, the act and its causal efficacy are two different things, of which one (which is perceptible) and the other (which can only be inferred) persists. It stands to the high credit of Indian logic to have distinguished acts (*karma*) from causes (*karana*), and to have given the significant names of "unseen" (*adrsta*) and "not-past" (*apurva*) to "causality", the latter term, in particular, at the same time implying that the efficacy of an act (unlike the act itself) is really *present when* the effect appears, the consequences of past actions always remaining latent until the conditions under which they can operate arise. From this point of view there remains no inconsistency in a combination of the concept of instant actuality with the operation of mediate causes in time.

On the other hand, it would be obviously impossible to apply the causal formula, that the efficacy of the

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<sup>10</sup> So it is that as St Thomas Aquinas says, "fate lies in the created causes themselves" (*Sum Theol* 1 116 2). The deduction will naturally follow that to escape from fate to be free, which is to fulfil one's destiny (reach one's destination man's last end), one must have 'denied himself' (*denegat seipsum*, Math 16 24) and passed over from becoming to being



cause is really *present-when* the effect appears, the consequences of past actions always remaining latent until the conditions under which they can operate are established, whereas, the causal act and its effects are never simultaneous, however soon the latter may be realised

On the other hand, it would be obviously impossible to apply the causal formula, "this being so, that follows", to that other world in which there is no *becoming* and no triad of *origination, existence, and decay* to be accounted for Keith continues "Absolute reality, Çantideva points out, does not fall within the domain of the intellect (*buddhi*), for that moves in the realm of relativity and error Nagarjuna denies consistently that he has any thesis of his own, for to uphold one would be wholly erroneous, the truth is silence, which is neither affirmation nor negation"<sup>41</sup>. All of these are positions already established in the Hinayana Canon<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> A B Keith, *ibid* pp 235-239

<sup>42</sup> Just as for Sankara "this Brahma is silence" (BrSBh 3 2 17) "Whom only silence can declare" (Hermes Trismegistos, I 31, cf X 5) "Nothing true can be said of God" (Meister Eckhart in Evans I 87, citing St Augustine, cf Kena Up I and II) Silence is the "Middle Way" between affirmation and negation, and corresponds to that "untold" (*anakkhalam* Dh 218, *avyakatam* S 4 374f) which the Buddha, for all that he "holds nothing back", cannot reveal for lack of any "speechway" (*vadapatha*) Silence is a "Middle Way" between affirmation and negation and what is probably the oldest text on Silence in this sense is to be found in the verses quoted in AA 2.3 8, v 3

De la Vallée Poussin<sup>43</sup> discusses *ksaṇa* (1) as a measure of time and (2) as the limiting minimum of

“Of speech, that which is ‘yes’ and which is ‘no’

Discarding, the prophets (*kavayah*) found their quest,

[Erst] bound by names, [now] they delighted in audition  
(*sruti*)

The Buddha characteristically “discards the yes and no” when he so often says that the condition of a Freedman, Arahant, post mortem cannot be described by such expressions as “is” or “is not” or by any copulative or disjunctive combination of these expressions,—just as, for the Upanisads, the Self is *neti neti*. The Buddha, moreover, likewise denies that he has any “views” (Sn 837, cf 152 and 878f, 914)

One further reservation must be made the Buddhist doctrine of Causality (*hetuṇa*, literally “etiology”) refers only to the operation of natural or mediate causes, or in other words to necessity, the same applies to the Western doctrine of causality as formulated by Leukippos (Aetios, I 25 4) for Plato, *Timaeus* 28 a, “everything becomes from some cause, of necessity”, and so on, to the scholastic doctrine that “nothing happens by chance” (St Augustine *QQ LXXXIII*, q 24) and the modern scientist’s “faith” in order. Past events determine the character of any entity at any given moment and in this sense “fate lies in the created causes themselves” (St Thomas Aquinas, *Sum Theol* I 116 2). But this no more in Buddhism (or Islam) than in Christianity excludes the entity’s responsibility for what, out of the bundle of possibilities that it inherits, it *elects* to do. Otherwise, all the Buddha’s exhortations to do this (*kiriyaṇa*) and not to do that (*akiriyaṇa*), to eradicate this and to make that become, and the whole concept of “self control” (the conquest, control or management, and impulsion of self by Self, Dh 104, 160, 379 *attana codaya’attanam*, 390 and passim) would be meaningless. It is true that all the reactions of the self or Ego are fated and determined by past causes, but all that “is not my Self” (*na me so attā*, passim), and whoever does not identify himself with it is in a position

time, analogous to the atom (*paramaṇu*) considered as an indivisible minimum of "matter", he barely mentions Hīnayana sources, and ignores their background altogether, though he quotes Vasubandhu on S 2 265. He cites various definitions of the moment in which a thing (*dhamma*)<sup>44</sup> exists, all amounting to this, that the moment has no real duration, it is just as incalculably short as the sum of the aeons would be incalculably long, a moment is simply the indivisible present in which the three phases of any existence take place,—“on ne peut douter que .. le *ksana*, duree du Dharma [chose] soit une grandeur de temps se rapprochant de zero à l'infinite” At the same time it does not seem to me correct to say that “le temps est discontinu et fait de *ksanas*, comme le corps etendu est fait d'atomes”, because the interval between two *ksanas* is no more than the *ksana* itself a period, and in the same way the space between two atoms is no larger than the measure of an atom, which is nil<sup>45</sup> Time flows

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to make *it* behave as *he* will. This is not an interference with the operation of causality, it is simply that with “repentance”, i.e. “change of mind”, previously inoperative causes are brought into play, with new results.

<sup>44</sup> “Notes sur le ‘moment’ ou *ksana* des bouddhistes”, *Rocznik Orientalistyczny*, 8, 1931, 1-13, in which he quotes from his own version of Vasubandhu’s *Abhidharmakosa* and from other sources.

<sup>45</sup> Dhamma as “thing”, a very common meaning also in the Pali sources, must not be confused with Dhamma as “Eternal Law” and (in *sa dhamma*) “Natural Law”.

<sup>46</sup> Aristotle deals with the problem in much the same way (Phys IV 13 222 a, b) time is “always beginning” (ἀεὶ γὰρ ἔσται)

in the same way that a river flows, continuously, and never rests (*na ramati*). Poussin cites also some Jaina sources<sup>46</sup> in which *samaya* as point of time corresponds to the Buddhist *ksana*: "a moment (*samaya*) is the minimum time (*kāla*) required by an atom (*paramānu*) to move its own length", and "a moment is the time required by an atom to pass through the interval between two atoms" (*anvantaram*)<sup>47</sup>.

Stcherbatsky's treatment of the Moment, in *Buddhist Logic*<sup>48</sup> is fuller, and he does recognize that "the origin of the theory of Instantaneous Being is probably pre-Buddhistic"<sup>49</sup>. He observes that for the Buddhist "existence and non-existence are not different appearances of a thing, they are the thing itself", quoting

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ἀεὶ)· it is by means of the indivisible now (ἄτομος νῦν) that "time is continuous"; in one sense the nows are different from one another, but in their function of holding time together they are "always the same" (ἀεὶ το αὐτό)

"Moments" are like "points" determining a line, two contiguous points will not make a line, but only three, because a line is not a line unless it has a beginning, middle and end, and so with all other series

<sup>46</sup> *Tattvarthādhigama*, treated by H. Jacob: in ZDMG 40, and *Gaṇitasārasaṅgraha*, edited by M. Rangacharya, Madras, 1912

<sup>47</sup> *Anvantara*, cf. *cit'antara* cited above, and *buddh'antara*, "interval between two successive advents", is neither Rangacharya's "un autre atome" nor Poussin's "l'intervalle, l'étendu d'une atome"

<sup>48</sup> *Bibliographica Buddhica* XXVI, 2 vols, Leningrad, 1930, 1932

<sup>49</sup> Stcherbatsky does not go very far back. In a footnote he says: "The Sāṅkhya-Yoga in this point, as in many others, comes very near to the Buddhist view, cp. Vyāsa on III 52—*kālo vastu sūnya buddhi-nirmānaḥ sarva-jñāna-anupātī, ksanas-*

Santaraksita, "the nature of anything is its own momentary stasis and destruction" (*yo hu bhavah ksana sthayaḥ vināsa itī gīyate, Tattvasaṅgraha* p 137 26) Such a destruction is not, of course, the empirical event that takes place when the jar is shattered by a blow and is then no longer a jar, but as much intrinsic to the thing as its very existence (pp 94, 95)

Stcherbatsky is right in saying that, in Vasubandhu's words, "because of immediate destruction, there is no (real) motion" (*na gatiḥ naśat, Abhidharmakośa* 4 1)<sup>50</sup> and would have been right in emphasizing that motion itself, and therewith time, is only a pragmatic postulate—just as for Buddhists the Ego, individuality, is only a pragmatic postulate—and as a concept, not an external reality but something constructed by ourselves, whose manner of knowing is in terms of time and space,—Kant's "forms of our intellect" But he is not right in deducing from this that "motion is discontinuous", for, on the one hand, motion is, experientially, continuous, and as we have seen, "the river never stops", while on the other, there is no motion really, and neither of these propositions, respectively relative and absolute, involves a discontinuity such as would be involved if we relapsed into the fallacy of thinking of a line as "made up of" points Vasubandhu illustrates his position (as Rumi did) by the example of a moving light, which produces the appearance of a line

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*tu vasta patitah*", which I take to mean that time is a baseless mental construction and a derivative of the moment

<sup>50</sup> See in L. de la Vallée Poussin *L'Abhidharmakośa de Vasubandhu*, 5 vols., Paris 1923 1931

of light, and "moves" in the same sense that we speak of a man as "walking". But Tscherbatsky<sup>51</sup> is wrong in saying (p 99) that the so-called "motion consists of a series of immobilities". What Vasubandhu actually says is that "the arising of instants is untinter-

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<sup>51</sup> Tscherbatsky goes on to discuss "some European parallels", chiefly in Bergson. He cites "the world that the mathematician deals with is a world that dies and is reborn every instant the world which Descartes was thinking of when he spoke of continuous creation" (*Creative Evolution*, pp 23, 24) and "the Ego has no reality. It is an endless flow" (*ib* pp 3, 4), and "the proposition that movement is made out of immobilities is absurd" (*ib* p 326). But when he (Tscherbatsky) sums up (p 118) by saying "for the Buddhists there are no stops at all other than in imagination, the universal motion never stops. For Bergson, on the contrary, real is duration, the moments are artificial cuts in it", I am unable to understand in what respect there is a contradiction.

For Leibniz there may be consulted F S C Northrop, "Leibniz's Theory of Space" in *JHI* 7, 1946. Leibniz denies "the void in space, atoms, and even particles not actually divided. And, further, he distinguished two levels of truth, that of "the primary truths of fact" (amongst which are propositions relating to the self) and "the truths of reason" (axiomatic propositions, e.g. that "every spirit is durable and absolute"),—all of which "has the consequence of making matter as known by any scientific knower or observer purely phenomenal". There is a certain irony, on the other hand, in the fact that for a typical modern nominalist such as A B Keith, "such knowledge as is not empirical is meaningless and ought not to be described as knowledge" (*Aitareya Aranyaka*, 1909, p 42), this last position has been destructively analysed by Wilbur M Urban, who concludes that "the metaphysical idiom of the Great Tradition is the only language that is really intelligible" (*The Intelligible World* 1929, p 471)!

rupted" (*nirantara ksana utpada*), and the word that Tscherbatsky renders by "series" is actually *samtana*<sup>52</sup>, which is literally and etymologically a "continuum", and what he says is that "'lamp' is the name conventionally given to a continuum of lights so as to make a sort of unity", and that it is just in the same way that "this man, So and so's" name is conventionally given to what is really a continuing process, not a substantial "self". And herein there is no departure from early Buddhist doctrine in which *punar utpadana* is already explained in terms of the lighting of one lamp from another, and there is no essence (*satta*) that moves on. In any case, any division of the continuity of time into a series of immobile instants would be just as artificial as a division of time into a discontinuous series of hours or days, or as the division of a line into a series of points. One might as well think of time as a thing *created* by the jerky motion of the hands of a clock.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>52</sup> It is precisely this continuity (*samtana* which Dasgupta also misrenders by series) that enables Cakrapāni to say that although the existence of the body is momentary (*ksanika*) the connection of the Supreme Self with the body is not intermittent but constant (Comment on *Caraka samhita* I 1 41). It is significant here also that Cakrapāni so well observes that "the constancy (or eternity) of the Self is a matter of its concurrence with its own past and future hypostatic experiences (*nityatvam calmanah purvaparakavasthanubhutartha pratissamadhanat* Comment on I 1 55) i.e. inasmuch as It is the one and only transmigrant. Thus what is for one a proof of the pseudo-identity of the transient self is for the other a proof of the real identity of the constant Self and these are complementary and by no means contradictory propositions.

### III

## GREECE

In discussing Time and Eternity in Greek contexts I shall refrain from entering into any long account of Greek "atomism" as a whole, since it appears that a distinction must be made between the physical atoms of which bodies may be a composite, and the atomic time that divides and unites periods of time from and to one another, just as the point divides or unites parts of a line from or to one another. Physical atoms must have some dimension, however small, if anything is to be "made of" them, but the time atom is a zero, and explicitly "not a part of time". It would be truer (though not exact) to say that past and future are parts of the time atom than it would be to describe a period of time as "made up of" time atoms just as the point is the principle and sine qua non of extension, but points, having no extension, cannot be added up to make a length, and we cannot say that extended things are "made up of" points. And so, with perfect logic, Plato does not speak of the elements as "atomic", but only as existing in particles "so very small as to be invisible", and only forming visible masses when these particles are assembled in sufficient numbers (*Timaeus* 56 C)



Aristotle, similarly, though an "atomic now" and "indivisible point" are essential to his thinking (*Phys* 6 3 234 A), is not an "atomist" in the material sense, he knows that "nothing continuous can be made of atoms" (*ἐξ ἀτόμων*), and that "all magnitude is continuous" (*Phys* 232 A, cf 241 B) atoms have *no* magnitude, and one cannot speak of atoms "next to" one another because what lies between two points is always a dimension (if not, they would be one and the same point), *Phys* 231 A, B + 8 8, 264 A, cf 241 A Our concern is only with the really and absolutely indivisible and undimensioned atom or point that gives a meaning to time or space<sup>1</sup>, and not at all with such "atoms" as have now been actually "split", or with those of the "atomists" such as Leukippos for whom "there are an infinite number of them, and they are invisible owing to the smallness of their bulk" (Aristotle, *De gen corr* A, 8 324 b 35)<sup>2</sup>, atoms that are "not mathematically indivisible", but each of which "*has magnitude*" and extension<sup>3</sup>, and of which, therefore, perceptible things *can* be constituted,—atoms that can, in fact, only be so called for so long as men have not yet been able to divide them, and which are really only *particles*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Non spatial and non temporal intuition is the condition of the interpretation of the space time world itself" (W V Urban *The Intelligible World*, p 260)

<sup>2</sup> As cited by Burnet, *Early Greek Philosophy* 4th ed p 335

<sup>3</sup> J Burnet l c. p 336

<sup>4</sup> And can therefore, quite logically, be thought of as constituent parts of great magnitudes Atomic constitution implies indeed a discontinuity of matter, but does not require a dis

Before Aristotle, Parmenides (Diels fr 8 preserved by Simplicius) had set forth in the clearest possible terms the doctrine that "that which *is*", and being Now, is other than the things that only seem to be and since they come into being and pass away, cannot be said to *be*. This indivisible, omnipresent and altogether present One is unoriginated and indestructible, "it is complete, immoveable, and endless. Nor *was* it ever, nor *will* it be for Now it *is*, all at once, a continuous One. It is all alike without beginning or end, since coming into being and passing away are excluded and far away from it, and true belief rejects them". When he goes on to say that "it cannot be called 'infinite', because it is in need of nothing", this sounds strange to us, but only means that it is not a void or chaos but a plenum, only "finite" in the sense that it is self contained. And if he also calls the One a "sphere, equally poised from the centre in every direction for it cannot be greater or smaller in one place than another", this implication of a bounding circumference (as it were dividing the light from the outer darkness), is no more inconsistent with the concept of an immaterial essence than is St Bonaventura's thought of God as a circle of which the centre is everywhere and the circumference nowhere (*Itin mentis* 5).

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continuity of the space in which they must be thought of as arranged nor does it require that this space should be literally a void. All traditions speak of an original separation of heaven and earth in order that there may be a room or space in which things can exist but the space thus created is aerial rather than empty.

Parmenides goes on to say that that which *is* is what is true; and to contrast it with the world of mortal opinion that is characterised by opposite forms, the contraries, of which light and darkness are the types, of which he also says that one should be ignored, since it is merely a privation of the other, and being therefore an un-reality cannot be thought Aristotle, to be sure, in *De caelo* 1 298 b 21, asserts that Parmenides is speaking all the time only about a sensible reality, but how could that be true of a description that expressly excludes an existence in time, and the realm of the contraries, which is itself the world of "sensible reality"? Indubitably, Parmenides is speaking of the Essence that others call "God", and it is significant that he not only enunciates the Now-ness of the One that is, but can only define it by negations of all that it is not

For Plato, the world was made by Zeus according to a self-same, stable, living paradigm, not generated but eternal (*αἰδιος*), and as it would have been impossible to attach the quality of Eternity wholly to what was generated<sup>5</sup>, "he designed to make out of Eternity (*αιων*, Skr *ayus*, 'life') a something moving, and so, when He was ordering the whole Heaven (Universe), He made out of that Eternity that ever abides in its own unity a sempiternal (*αιωνιος*) image, moving

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<sup>5</sup> An image is never like its archetype in all respects or would be not an image, but a duplicate (*Cratylus* 432 C, D), in the present case the point is that "generation" and "eternity" are incompatibles

according to number 6, even that which we have called 'time' (χρόνος)<sup>7</sup> For simultaneously He contrived the days and nights, and months and years, that were not before the generation of the Heaven (Universe)<sup>8</sup> And

<sup>6</sup> Cf Skr jagat, "the moving" i.e. the world. It should be noted, however, that motion includes "rest", which is not the same thing as "immoveability", but only a potential and temporarily inhibited motion not to mention that things "at rest" are not thereby exempted from change and alteration. As Aristotle says, "Nature is the principle (or origin) of rest as well as motion", both of which are "in time" (*Phys* 8 3, 253 B + 6 8, 239 A, 4 12, 221 B) and impossible in the "now" (*ib* 6 3 234 A) and our present concern is with this timeless "Nature" (Plato's *διαίωμα φησι*, *Timaeus* 37 B) as distinguished from its temporal manifestations, which is the distinction of the stasis of that which *is* from the motion and rest of things that *become*. This distinction is made already in RV 1 115 1 where the Sun is the Self (principle) of "all that is in motion or at rest" (*jagatas tasthanas ca*). Following Aristotle, St Thomas (*Sum Theol* 1 10 4 ad 3) also points out that time "not only measures motion, but also rest".

<sup>7</sup> Κρονος the father of Zeus, was later on assimilated to χρόνος "time", although this is etymologically inconceivable. It is, in fact, Zeus, who, like Prajapati can be equated with the Year, and must be identified with time that he overthrew his father means that *qua* time, he subdivided Time while that Kronos swallowed all his children Zeus excepted, only means that *Eternity is both the source of all times and their sink*. For an analogous myth cf BU 1 2 5 "Whatever He (Death, Prajapati, the Year, the Sun, who is also the Breath of Life) brought forth, that he began to eat".

<sup>8</sup> In all these positions Plato is so closely followed by Plotinus (who ought much rather to be called a Platonist than a "Neo-" Platonist) that I have not thought it necessary to quote him here. An admirable summary of Plotinus on "Time

these are all parts of time; even as 'was' and 'shall be' are generated parts of time, though we casually misapply them to the Eternal Essence [when we call it 'everlasting'],—for we say that Eternity 'is', 'was' and 'shall be', although in truth of speech the 'is' alone is appropriate, while 'was' and 'will be' are properly applicable only to the becoming that proceeds in time, since both are movements; but it does not pertain to that which is always (*ἀεί*) self-accordant and motionless, to become older or younger by way of time, nor to 'have become so', nor to 'be' so now, nor to be 'about to be so' in the future, nor, in general to be subject to any of the conditions that are associated with what is sensible because of its 'becoming',—these being generated forms of time, which imitates Eternity and revolves according to number. Nor is it really accurate to say of what has become that it 'is' become, or of what becomes that it 'is' becoming, or of what will become that it 'is' about to become, or of the non-existent (*τὸ μὴ εἶναι*) that it 'is' non-existent...<sup>9</sup>.

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and Eternity" will be found in Dean Inge, *The Philosophy of Plotinus*, 2nd ed 1923, 2. 92-103. Incidentally, the Dean remarks that "the kind of immortality which 'psychical research' endeavours to establish would be for him [Plotinus] a negation of the only immortality which he desires and believes in. Nor does Neoplatonism encourage the belief that the blessed life is a state which will only begin for the individual when the earthly course of the whole human race has reached its term". It has often, indeed, been recognized that Plotinus' position is thoroughly Indian; it by no means follows that he derived many, or any, parts of his doctrine from India

<sup>9</sup> The like ideas find expression even today, but in the lang-

“Time, then, became together with the Heaven (Universe), so that having been generated together they might also be dissolved together, if ever any dissolution of them should be, and it was made according to the paradigm of the Everlasting (*διαίωνα*) Nature, to be as much like it as was possible, for while the paradigm ‘is’ for all Eternity (*παντα αἰῶνα*), the copy, on the other hand ‘is’ for all time (*ἄπαντα χρόνοι*)<sup>10</sup> wholly

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usage of the time For example Wilbur Urban, *The Intelligible World*, 1929, pp 417-421 “The identification of being with that which becomes, with processes of evolution and devolution is impossible There is no entropy of being the two phenomenal categories of life and death [i.e future and past] are moments in a larger life” That is as much as to say that *being* neither lives nor dies and that nothing can be added to or subtracted from it, and that as in SB 10 5 2 13 our very *life* depends upon the presence of death within us,—it is one and the same Father who “killeth and maketh alive” (AV 8 3 3, I Sam 2 6), one Death who both devours his children and generates them (PB 21 2 1) Wilbur Urban’s “terminus” [*a quo* and *ad quem*] corresponds to Aristotle’s “moment” or “point” that as its “limit” defines and gives a meaning to existences and it is not without good reason that Terminus (Hermes) was once a *nomen Dei* who is indeed, at once both man’s beginning and his end

On the other hand a “scientific” author J B S Haldane can write on “Time and Eternity” (in the *Rationalist Annual* for 1946) without for a moment suspecting that he is only discussing time and completely ignoring the traditional meaning of “Eternity”

<sup>10</sup> In *Meno* 85, 86 the “recollection” of things not learnt in this life is taken to show that the Soul must have existed “throughout all time” and is therefore immortal—i.e eternal (*αἰδία*) and imperishable *Phaedo* 106 D E but this argument

such as to have become, exist, and be about to exist", *Timaeus* 29 A, B, and 37 D—38 C

The same distinctions are implicit in the *Cratylus* 439 E, where it is asked "How can that which is never self-same 'be' anything? For if it is ever self same, it is evidently not at that time transient, and if it is always self same and 'itself', how can it ever change or move without relinquishing its own form?" (*ἢ αὐτοῦ ἰδέα*, exactly Skr *sva rupa*)<sup>11</sup>

Eternity was referred to above as self-same "in Unity" and can hardly be other than the "One" of

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from pre-existence (and repeated incarnation) is not a rigorous proof,<sup>12</sup> because incarnation itself is a kind of dying, *Phaedo* 95 C, D, cf JUB. 3 9 1 and 4 9 and St Bernard, *De grad humilitatis* 1 30, *Nascimur morituri ideoque nascimur morituri, quia primus morimur nascituri*, and also the various Brahmanical and Buddhist contexts in which it is emphasized that immortality and birth are incompatible, and that the seeds of death are born with us Cf St Augustine, *Sermo (de Scrip N T)* 97 3 3 "From the moment a man is born, it may be said, 'He will not get over it'"

<sup>11</sup> This is the predicament of the positivist or 'nothing morist' (*nastika*), that in acknowledging the reality only of that which can be grasped he is attributing "reality" to things that cannot be grasped because they never stop to be, and is driven, in spite of himself, to postulate the reality of some such abstract entity as "Energy",—a word that is nothing but one of the names of God As Wilbur Urban (*Language and Reality*, p 703) remarks, "the scientist speaks of 'a machine that winds its own springs', therefore of a machine that is not a machine, of a 'natural selection' which is really not a selection",—and in so far as he resorts to these antinomies abandons logic! "A machine that winds its own springs is as much a fiction as a thinking reed" (*ib* p 515)

which the nature is discussed at great length in the *Parmenides* 141 ff where it is asked whether it "is" or "is not" and how the answer bears upon the nature of the "others" The answers describe the two contrasted natures of one and the same essence, at the same time they remind us very strongly of the Buddhist answers to the question, whether it can be said that an Arahant, after death, "is" or "is not", and of the attribution both of temporality and of timelessness to the Dhamma, and of the distinction of a Nibbana with or without residual "assumptions" The One is both one and many, and neither one nor many, it both partakes and does not partake of time it is and is not, changes and does not change However, if it is, "it is all things and nothing at all"<sup>12</sup> Now, that it is both unchangeable and also changes, both static and in motion means that "it must itself be *in no time at all* (for) there is no *time* in which anything can be at once static and in motion When, then, does it change? Is there this out-of place thing (*ἄτοπον*)<sup>13</sup> wherein it might be,

<sup>12</sup> A significant formula that often recurs in the sayings of the Western "mystics" e.g. in *The Cloud of Unknowing* "Let be this everywhere and this aught in comparison of this now here and this naught What is he that calleth it 'naught'?" Surely it is our outer man and not our inner Our inner man calleth it 'All' And therefore travail fast (earnestly) in this naught and this nowhere' (cc 65 70) and Jacob Boehme "Nothing and All or that nothing visible out of which all things proceed Whosoever finds it finds nothing and all things"

<sup>13</sup> ἄτοπος rendered usually to be by 'extraordinary', but here especially appropriate in its literal sense of "placeless",



'when' it changes? And of what sort? The moment (*ἐξαιφνης*)<sup>14</sup> For the moment seems to signify a something from which there is change in both directions .. there is thus instantaneous nature that has no place (*ἄτοπος*), something enthroned between motion and stasis, not existent in any time, and it is into this and out of this that whatever is in motion changes to be static<sup>15</sup>, and that whatever is static changes to be in motion. But in changing, it changes instantaneously, and not in any time, but when it is neither in motion nor static, and in the same way as regards its other 'changes', as from non existence (*το μη εἶναι = prag-abhava*)<sup>16</sup> to becoming (*το γινεσθαι = bhava*), from

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whatever is "not in any time" being necessarily also "not in any place" In Skr *akala*, "untimely" is used where in Gk *ἄτοπος*, "out of place", would be said

<sup>14</sup> Here unquestionably "instant" or "moment" without duration, since it is synonymous with "not in any time" *Ἐξαιφνης* is defined by Aristotle (*Physics* 4 13 222 b) as "minimally removed (from the indivisible now) by an imperceptible time", in NT the word is rendered by "suddenly"—Mark 13 36, Luke 2 13, 13 9 Acts 9 3, 22 6, and similarly Mark 9 8 (*ε,ατινα*) and Acts 2 2 (*ἄγνω*), cf St Thomas Aquinas *Sum Theol* I II 113 7 on the "suddenness" of the Holy Ghost, and also Plato *Ep* 7 341 C. The word itself seems to mean "out of the unseen" (*ε, ἀφανης*) while "sudden" means "going stealthily" (*sub it aneus*), cf *ἄγνω* in the sense of "unawares"

<sup>15</sup> "Static", to be distinguished from "at rest" in the merely relative and physical sense in which things "at rest" are really only in "unstable equilibrium"

<sup>16</sup> Plato's four kinds of non-existence,—the "not yet" of things that may or will exist, the "no longer" (*μυκίτι*) of things that change and perish so as to "not be" what they

being one to being many, from being like (itself) to being unlike, from being small to being great, and conversely,—so that it is neither in a state of increase nor of decrease nor of equality”<sup>17</sup> (*Parmenides* 147-157A) so that their participation is both in the Whole (of

Further, it is shown that the “others” participate in the One, but are not parts of it, for it has no parts,

were (like Cleinias, when he changes from being ignorant to being wise, *Euthydemus* 282 D), the “mutual” or “relative” (reference 3 in the text above, and also *Parmenides* 163 C, “absence of existence in which we say that it is not there”, and *Sophist* 258 E “as regards others”), and “absolute” (*Parmenides* 163 C “non-existent in any way, shape, or manner”, and *Sophist* 237 B τὸ μηδαμῶς ὄν) are respectively identical with the Indian set of four kinds of non-existence, viz in the same order, *pragabhava pradhvamsabhava anyonyabhava*, and *atyantabhava* Plato’s discussions of non-existence will be found easier to follow if at every point we pause to consider which of the four kinds of non-existence is referred to whether, for example τὸς ἀλλήλα (*anyonya*) or μηδαμῶς (*atyanta*), otherwise, the discussion is indefinite, because *τὸ* and *οἷ* always imply a difference of some kind (*Sophist* 257 B, C) and non-existence is not the opposite of existence, but only to be contrasted with it for there is no ‘opposite of being’ (*ib* 258 E)—just as the finite is not the opposite of the infinite, but only, so to speak an excerpt from it. In the non-existent is “that which is uncharacterised” (*yad vai nasti tad alakṣanam*, SB 7 2 1 7) this is *anyonya* in that it means freedom from affirmative limitations, so that when the Deity is described as *sad asat* this is tantamount to *niruktaniruktam* and means that it is both with and without such definitions or in other words both God and Godhead, the Godhead being uncharacterised and so as Western mystics express it “free in its non-existence”, and properly to be called “*nihil*”

<sup>17</sup> I.e. past, future and present conditions of becoming

which they are parts) and in the One, and it results for these others than the One "because of what they have in common with the One and with themselves, both that there are differences amongst themselves by which they are limited in their relation to one another and to the Whole<sup>18</sup>, and that 'their own authentic nature' (*ἡ δ' εαυτων φησι, καθ' εαυτα*) is unlimited. So that the things that are other than the One, whether as wholes or parts, are both unlimited and participant in limitation" (*ib* 158 D). In other words, they bear within themselves the "trace" of the One's one-and-manyness, mortality and immortality, etc., being mortal as they are in themselves (*εν εαυτοις*), and immortal as regards their Selves (*καθ' εαυτα*)<sup>19</sup>, which last are their portion in and of the One in its "own form",—a distinction of the "man" from the "Inner man" (*εγγο, ανθρωπο,*, *Rep* 589 B = *ayam antah purusah* CU 3 12 8) that, as in II Cor 4 16<sup>20</sup> corresponds exactly to the Indian distinction of the corporeal or elemental self (*sarira* or *bhuta atman*) from the unborn, indivisible Ultimate Self (*parama-atman*), the Self of all things become" (*sarva bhutanam atman*)<sup>21</sup>.

The distinction of things as they are "in themselves" from what is "their own authentic nature" (as above,

<sup>18</sup> See in Note 1

<sup>19</sup> "That which is the real self of each of us and which we term the immortal soul" (*Laws* 909 B, tr R G B ) Cf Luke 15 17 ε εαυτον δε ελθων

<sup>20</sup> Cf II Cor 4 16 δ ζω ημων ανθρωποτος δ αφθιρει ημων ανακαινιται ημεοσ και ημεισ

<sup>21</sup> Jacob Boehme's 'Being of all beings', *passim*

and cf. Sophokles, *Philoctetes* 902, 903 contrasting man's "authentic nature", τὴν αὐτοῦ φύσιν with the "man", ἀνὴρ) is further clarified in terms of time and eternity in the *Philebus*, 53 D-59 A: "There are [in our existence] two things, one authentic Self (αὐτὸ καθ' αὐτό), and the other ever pursuing something other than itself... one that is ever for the sake (ἕνεκα) of the things-that-really-are, the other that which having become for the sake of (χάριν, perhaps 'for the love of') the former—(that is) for the sake of something (other than itself)—is ever becoming... (this last) being the becoming (γένεσις, bhava)<sup>22</sup> of all things, and the other their essence (οὐσία, bhāva)... The truest knowledge (γῶσις, jñāna) is of that which is, and really is, and that is ever natured in accordance with itself (κατὰ ταῦτόν αὖτ' ἐπιφυρόσ<sup>23</sup> = svayambhū, in later Gk. αὐτογενής); but the technologists are not, as they imagine, students of this Nature (φύσις); what they spend their lives in the investigation of is the things of this world, how they become, what their passion is<sup>24</sup>, and how they operate... taking no pains whatever to discover the

<sup>22</sup> Which becoming is inseparable from its opposite, destruction (τὸ φθειροῦσθαι), and both of these conditions are other than that third (Middle) and contemplative life in which there is neither gree nor grief, *ib* 55 A

<sup>23</sup> Cf τὸ αὐτοφυές, *Rep* 486 E, Skr svaruh, growing from its own roots: and contrast ἑτεροφυής, "parasitic"

<sup>24</sup> Literally, "how they suffer this or that" (ὅπη πασχεται), i.e. as we should say, "how they are economically, or otherwise, determined" On the other hand, as Aristotle points out, things not in time are impassible (οὐδε πασχεται), change being impossible in that which has no parts (*Phys* 4 12 221 B + 6 10 240 B)

things-that-really-are, but only those that become and will become and have become",—temporalia<sup>1</sup>

For Aristotle, "things eternal (*τὰ δ' αἰδία*) are neither generated nor destroyed" (*Nich Eth* 6 3 2) "eternal entities (*τὰ αἰεὶ ὄντα*), by the fact of their eternity, are not in time. . . the mark of which is their impassibility . . . In time all things are generated and destroyed . . . Time is made up only of the past and the future. . . the Now is not a part of time at all. . . Time cannot be divided into atomic parts" (*Phys* 4 12, 221 B + 13, 222 B + 10, 218 A + 8 8, 263 B) and this is as much as to say that Eternity is Now, or not at all

By the "now that is not a part of time" is meant, of course, the "atomic now" (*ἄτομος νῦν*) that marks the beginning or the end of any period of time, which end is also the beginning of another period of time, "for time is always in the beginning" (*ἀεὶ ἐν ἀρχῇ*, *Phys* 4 13, 222 B), and like movement, everlasting, or that, in other words, divides the past from the future. So the indivisible Now has the double function of dividing and uniting (*ἡ διαίρεσις καὶ ἡ ἕνωσις*)<sup>25</sup>, and in these two functions is altogether like the undimensioned Point (*στιγμή*)<sup>26</sup> that simultaneously divides and

<sup>25</sup> "What we have called the Great Person (*mahapurusa*) is the Year that scatters some things and unifies others", i.e. generates some in their diversity and puts an end to the existence of others (AA 3 2.3) *pradhvamsayan*, not here "destroys" (empirically) but rather literally "makes dust of" in the sense that "dust thou art" (Gen 3 19), and *aikya bhavayan*, "slays", cf BU 4 4 2 *ekī bhavati*, "is dying"

<sup>26</sup> "Point" can be said either with respect to time or space cf Plutarch, *Mor* 117 E "the longest life is short and mo-

unites the parts of a line. As dividers, nows are always differentiated (*ἀεὶ ἕτερον*) by their relation to different pasts and futures, but as uniters always the same (*ἢ ἀνρθεῖ, ἀεὶ τὸ αὐτό*); just as in the case of points which as dividers are manifold (since a line can be divided in different places), but in the sense that the point is that which traces the undivided line, are "the same throughout" (*ib.* 222 A). "Nows", in other words, are all the same, but apparently differentiated by the really different times with which they are associated (*Phys.* 4. 11, 219 B); and that is just as, in terms of transmigration, the *one* "atomic Self" (*anur ātman*, *Mund. Up.* cited above) is empirically many by the superimposition of the empirical qualities of the many vehicles to which it is present, though it is really always the same and never discontinuous with itself; or to take a different example, just as space is unlimited but apparently differentiated by the boundaries of a

mentary (*στιγμιαῖος*) compared to limitless Eternity", and Dante, *Paradiso* 17. 17 *il punto a cui tutti li tempi son presenti*, "the moment to which all times are present", and 33 94 *un punto solo*, "a single moment"

The "point (of Time impartite) to which all times are present", and "from which point heaven and the whole of nature depend" (*Paradiso* 28 41, cf 13 11 with RV 1 35 6) is equally the motionless centre of all existence,—"*Daz ist der zirkel, den diu sēle umbeloufen hat*"—and when the soul has been her rounds and found the circle endless, then she casts herself into the centre, "*in ein punt*" (*Meister Eckhart, Pfeiffer* 503).

\*1 In this paragraph, bracketed numbers refer to E R Goodenough, "A Neo-Pythagorean Source in Philo Judaeus", *Yale Classical Studies* III, 1932, pp 117-164

jar, but when the jar is broken the "space in which it was" is no longer identifiable. It is interesting that this last illustration is also used by Aristotle himself in *Phys* 4 4, 211 B, where he points out that if the imaginary spatial entity left behind when the vessel is removed were really identifiable, this would imply the existence of an infinite number of individual "places" existent in one and the same continuous space.

Here, in parenthesis, it may be observed that the dual functions of the instantaneous now or undimensioned point which divides and unites extents of time or space are precisely *logical* functions, and are in fact the functions of *the Logos* that is at once the Divider (*τομευς*) and Unifying Bond (*δεσμος*) of all things notably as envisaged by Philo, who, starting from Gen 15 10 "He divided them in the middle, and laid the pieces opposite each other", describes the created world "as consisting of an almost infinite series of opposites [*εραντια, dvandvau*] held together in harmony by the very creative impulse or agent which had originally separated them out from primitive and unformed matter by a series of bisections" (132)<sup>27</sup>, i.e. de limitations or measurements<sup>28</sup>. Just as for Heraclitus "reality is a *ἀσπονία* of opposite tensions a single nature which develops itself in the twofold

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<sup>27</sup> It is perhaps hardly necessary to say that the concept is referable to Plato that God is always geometrizing (as we see Him in Blake's *Ancient of Days* leaning out of the Sun extending his compasses cf RV 5 85 5 *maneneva tashivan antarikşe vi yo mame prthvim suryena* cf 8 25 18 and TS 5 4 6 5).

directions" (132), so for Philo the "Monad [Plato's 'One' as distinct from the 'others'] is not a number at all, but a premise (*στοιχείον*) and a principle" (*ἀρχή*, *Heres* 190,—and as such, of course, "ungenerated and indestructible" and "without beginning or end" Plato, *Phaedrus* 245 D + Aristotle, *Phys* 8 1, 252 B, cf 3 4 203 B) "The Monad is the image of God who is single in his unity and at the same time a pleroma", while "the others are held together (*σφιγεται*)"<sup>29</sup> by the Divine Word" (*Heres* 187, 188),—and so, "the Logos as being God in relation to the world is at once the Cutter of the universe and the glue binding it together" (133, 146) This "One" (*το γαὶον ἓν*) is represented by the central light of the sevenfold *λίχια*, of which the *golden*<sup>30</sup> material is the symbol of unbreakable extensibility and so of total presence (*Heres* 215f)<sup>31</sup>, while elsewhere the characteristic symbol of the Logos is the Pillar, i.e. *Axis Mundi*

It is emphasized by Philo (*Heres* 207f and *passim*), and recognized throughout the tradition, what is obvious enough, that all *creation* and *existence* involves a distinction or separation of contrary concepts nothing

<sup>29</sup> I cannot here enlarge upon values of *σφιγγω* and *Σφιγξ* except to say that the Sphinx is certainly not "the strangler", but much rather (as Clement of Alexandria also saw) "the bond" that holds the universe together

<sup>30</sup> Gold, as in India *passim* being the recognized symbol of life, light truth and immortality

<sup>31</sup> Compare Daqiqi's wonderful vision of the seven candles that become one, and that are also seven men and seven trees that are both seven and one, Rumi *Mathnawi* 3 1985ff



that was or will be, or that is "now" in the vaguer sense of the word, but is qualitatively "this" and "not that" So it is that for Nicolas of Cusa (*De vis Dei* c. IX) it is of these contraries that the wall of Paradise, wherein God dwells, is built, and no one who has not overcome "the highest spirit of reason" [i.e. the Logos] that guards the undimensioned point that divides the contraries from one another and unites them can attain to the coincidence of opposites that subsists in the divine intellect and in the same way in India, Liberation is "from the delusion of the pairs" (*dvandva moha nirmuktah* BG 7 28, *dvandvatulo nanubadh yate*, 4 22), "overcoming the pairs" (MU 3 1) It is inasmuch as "strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life" that "few there be that find it" (Math 7 14) "I am the door" (John 10 9), "Now (*rūp*) is the day of salvation" In a moment (*ēv āroui*), the twinkling of an eye, we shall be changed" (II Cor 6 2 and I Cor 15 52) In other words, our opportunity is instantaneous, and this is apparent in all the traditional accounts of the passage of the Symplegades or Sundoor, whether Greek, Irish, American or Indian<sup>31a</sup>, for example in the *Malabharata* (Poona ed I 29 4) where the "Active Door" is an ever revolving razor edged wheel (as in Genesis "a flaming sword which turned every way") between the spokes of which "the Skyfarer, diminishing his body, darted in an instant" (*ksanena*), — that very "moment without duration", of

<sup>31a</sup> See my "Symplegades" in M F Ashley Montagu (Ed.), *Studies Offered in Homage to George Sarton*, 1947

that one can hope to pass "through the midst of the Sun", the Way is just as narrow as the Gate is strait

To return to Aristotle, in discussing the essential identity of the indivisible Now, and the accidental distinction of the two Nows that delimit a given period of time he says, with reference to their difference that "if simultaneity as to time, and not being before or after, implies coincidence, and is in the Now, if the before and after are both in one and the same Now, then what happened ten thousand years ago would be simultaneous with what is happening today, and no thing would be before or after anything else" (*Phys* 4 10, 218 A) Again, whether One or accidentally two, the Now itself is not in time so as to be a part of it, but only in the sense that time surrounds it, much as the sea surrounds an island. Were the Now in time as a part is *in* a whole, "then everything would be in anything, and the universe in a grain of millet, only because the grain of millet and the universe are both existent at the same time" (*ib* 4 12, 221 A) It seems to me that the only purpose of these difficult statements is to distinguish the accidental simultaneity of things in time from their essential simultaneity apart from time, in the Now that unites the past and the future, and that it must be the whole of the past and the future, in neither of which is there any discontinuity, that meet in the Now that faces both ways. Aristotle can hardly have meant to deny the simultaneity of past and future in this One and Eternal Now, or to deny that there is a sense in which the universe is "in a grain of millet", for if the grain and the uni

and changes from one age to another, and from one form (*ιδέα*) to another. Oftentimes men fail to recognize their own children after a short interval, and children likewise fail to recognize their parents... You must understand that that alone that ever *is*, is real But a man is not a thing that ever is... nothing is real that does not remain what it is... The [Supernal] Sun, who does not change, but remains what he is, is real... He rules over all things, and makes all things; him do I worship, and I adore his Truth, acknowledging him as the Maker, next after the Primal One<sup>33</sup>. What then, is the Primal Truth (or Reality)? Only that One, who is not made of matter, nor embodied, who is colourless and formless, changeless and unalterable, and who is eternally”<sup>34</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> I cannot agree with Scott that the passage referring to the Sun “is inconsistent with the text; the reference is not to the physical sun, but to the intelligible Sun, and Scott is falling into the error derided by Plutarch, that of confusing Helios with Apollo even when the word Helios really stands for Apollo Cf. my note 7 in *Psychiatry* 8, 1945, p 288, and the distinction, throughout tradition, of the sensible from the spiritual Sun Put into Christian terms, all that Hermes is saying is that both the Son (“through whom all things were made”) and the Father are “true” or “real”, but the latter even more superlatively so

<sup>34</sup> Scott, *Hermelica* 1 387-389 (Excerpt II A, Hermes to Tat) The last sentence might have been taken word for word from an Upanishad (e g *KU* 3 15), as a description of *Brahma*, That One

Hermes (whom Plutarch and Hippolytus identified with “Reason”) also discusses “the three times” and remarks that “they are made one by their continuity, but “seeing that the

Plutarch, who may not be very "original", but is a very good philosopher, quotes Heraclitus and goes on "nor is it possible to lay hold twice of any mortal substance in the same state, by the sharpness and swiftness of the change in it there 'comes dispersion and again combination', or, rather, not at another time nor later, but *at the same instant* (*ἄμα*) it both takes its place and leaves it and 'comes and goes' So that that which is born of it never attains to being Dead is the man of yesterday, for he has died into the man of today (*σημερον* = Skr *sadya*) No one persists, nor is he 'one', but becomes many and if he changes, he is not the same, and if he is not the same, he is not 'himself', but himself changes as other proceeds from other Our sensibility, through ignorance of what really is, falsely tells that the appearance 'is'

"What, then, is that which really is? That which is eternal, unborn and unperishing, and to which time brings no change For time is something moving, apparent in connection with matter in motion, ever

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present does not stand fast even for an instant (*κεντρον* = *punctus*), how can it be said to be 'present' (lit 'in standing') when it cannot stand in equilibrium?' (*οοση*) (Excerpt 10) and "that which is ever becoming is ever perishing but that which has become once for all (*ἄταξ*) perishes not at all' (Excerpt 11, 5) All this is equally Aristotelian and Buddhist The last corresponds exactly to BG 2 20b 'nor having come to be, will he ever more come not to be' any supposed objection to such an expression as "having come to be" falling away because the reference is really to That One who is "self become" (*svayam bhū*, *αιτοφνης*) and was not brought into being by any external cause Cf *infra* p 65, l 1

flowing (*ὄλον αἰεῖ*), not a retainer, but as it were a vessel of destruction and becoming, whose familiar 'after' and 'before', 'shall be' and 'has been' when they are said, are of themselves a confession of not being. . For 'now' is crowded out into the future and the past, when we regard it as a point [of time], for of necessity it suffers a division [is not an *ἄτομος νῦν*]

"But, it hardly need be said, God *is*, and He is not for any time but for the eternity (*αἰών*) that is motionless and timeless and undeviating, and wherein there is no before nor after, nor future nor past, nor older nor younger, but He, being One, has with one [indivisible] 'Now' filled 'for ever'"<sup>35</sup>

Finally, for Plotinus (*Enneads* 2 4 7 and 3 7 3 11), for whom "there are no atoms, all body is divisible endlessly", time and motion are continuous, and time, an imitation of Eternity, is "the life of the soul as she passes from one phase of activity or experience to another" On the other hand, Eternity, in the last analysis identical with God, "is a life changelessly motionless and ever holding the universal content in actual presence, not this now and now that other, but always all self same, for ever in the present Now whole, in the full sense that nothing whatever is absent from it So that nothing is in store for it for if any

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<sup>35</sup> Plutarch, *Moralia* 392 C-393 A In 422 C he speaks also of eternity' "whence time, like an ever flowing stream, is conveyed to the worlds as being "round about" (*τετατα*) all things, i.e. all pervading In another sense, of course, all things are "round about" eternity, as the circumference surrounds the centre Cf St Augustine, *infra*, p. 106, n 4

thing were yet to come, that thing must have been lacking to it, and so it could not be the All. The word, Eternity (*αιων*), itself means 'ever being' (*αιει δν*) though 'always', spoken not of time but of the incorruptible and endlessly whole, is liable to introduce the false notions of stage or interval. It were better to say 'Being' simply, since 'everlasting' really adds nothing to the concept of Being which has no connection with any quantity, such as instalments of time, but is prior to all quantity. Life, instantaneously entire, complete, nowhere broken into period or part, pertaining to the Self-existent by the very fact that it is, that has been the object of our enquiry, that is Eternity." And he adds that motion, the circling of all things round about their eternal centre, "is their seeking after perpetuity by way of futurity." After Plotinus, we reach the beginning of the Middle Ages, with St Augustine and Boethius, in whom the Platonic tradition persists.

## IV ISLĀM

D B Macdonald has dealt with a part of our subject at some length in *Isis* 30 (June 1927), in an article entitled "Continuous re-creation and atomic time in Muslim scholastic theology" He starts with Maimonides' account of Muslim "atomism", according to which, he says, the world is made of atoms that "have no quantity, but out of which compounds can be made which possess quantity" and that exist in a vacuum, that is, there is a separation between them in which absolutely nothing, body or atom, exists Time is made up of now's (*'anat*)<sup>1</sup> This means that time is made up of a great many 'times' which cannot be further subdivided Accidents are inseparable from the atoms the accident does not last two atoms of time This means that when Allah creates a material atom he creates in it whatever accidents he wills When an accident is created it passes away at once, then Allah creates another accident of the

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<sup>1</sup> As Macdonald himself points out this is *not* the Aristotelian doctrine but, rather, "based on the paradoxes of Zeno, which cannot be logically resolved except by eliminating all infinitesimals" It may have been the Ash'arite doctrine but is certainly not that of the indivisible "instant" of the Sūfis

same kind . he is absolutely the only agent [*asli kar*] in existence [but] he creates in the mind of the supposed actor an 'accepting as his own' of his supposed act<sup>2</sup>. Only Allah holds together the

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\* The notion that "I am the agent" is fallacious equally from the Islamic, Vedantic and Buddhist points of view, and for Philo, whose *oñoi*, = Skr and Pali *mana*, all with reference to the egocentric delusions, "I do", "I am", etc This by no means relieves the "individual" of full responsibility for "his" actions, injunctions and prohibitions are valid for him, and he will reap as he sows, for so long as his individuality lasts

In Islam, the "necessitarianism" (*jabr*) that would make of man a merely passive instrument is a well recognized heresy (for some of the references see Nicholson, *Mathnawi*, Commentary 1 45, and s v "necessitarianism" and *jabr* in the Index) So also in Hinduism and Buddhism, where the notion that "I am the agent" is equally fallacious, it is God alone who acts in us, but this in no way relieves the man of responsibility for so long as as he still thinks of himself as "this man, So-and so", and it is a heresy to maintain that there is no "ought to be done" and "ought not to be done" freedom from obligation is only for those who are no longer anyone All injunctions and prohibitions imply a freewill attributed to those to whom they apply For some of the references see Śaṅkarācārya, BrSBh 2 3 48 (SBE 38 66) and s vv *Akīrtiyavada* and *Ahaṁkāra* in HJAS 4 1939, pp 119, 129

The Christian position is not different If it holds for Christ that "I do nothing of myself the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 8 28, 14 10) it is hardly for his followers to assert their own independent agency, but only to be, like their exemplar, "co-workers with Him who doeth the works" (St Augustine, *De nat et gratia* 31 35) Man, of himself, merely behaves ill or well, and is under the Law But "if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law" (Gal



whole stream of the existence of the world Allah is the only Reality. We must eliminate the conception of causality from the universe except as to the imme-

5 18), "whoever is born of God cannot sin" (1 John 3 9), "the acts of a man who is led by the Holy Ghost are not his acts, but those of the Holy Ghost" (St Th Aquinas, *Sum Theol* 1-II 96 2 ad 3) The same applies to lies and truth, man in himself is a liar (Ps 115 11, John 8 44, St Augustine, *Sermo [De Script N T]* 166 2 2 and 3 3, cf Heraclitus as interpreted by Sextus Empiricus *ΠΡΟΣ ΛΟΓΙΚΟΥΣ* 131-134), but "all that is true, by whomsoever it has been said, is from the Holy Ghost" (St Ambrose on 1 Cor 12.3)

All this can only be rightly understood when the nature of an *act*, and the relation of act to being has been rightly understood No sin is an 'act', but only a failure to act, as the words mis deed, Un that, *akrtam* truly tell us Sinners themselves, "insofar as they are sinners, have no being at all, but fall short of it" (St Th Aquinas, *Sum Theol* 1 20 2ad 4) that is, not being "in act", are not "in being" Accordingly, whatever is "not done", every mis deed, is referable to man as he is in himself, a virtual non entity, but whatever is really *done* is referable to God, and so He is the "sole agent"

Freewill is not a liberty to do as one likes—a matter of passive reaction to pleasure and pain, and anything but a freedom Freewill is the liberty to accept or refuse the status of "co-workers with God", to appropriate or shirk the specific functions that have been delegated to men as vocations ("for everyone is predisposed by God to that for which he was created", Hadith), and to obey or disobey the Natural Law The human puppet is free to hold or not hold onto the "golden cord" (of the "thread spirit") and either acts or merely reacts accordingly (Plato, *Laws* 644) "To 'act' (*facere*) and suffer belongs to bodies and their soul, for it both 'acts' in the body and suffers through the body But truly to act (*facere vero*) belongs only to God and other divine essences" (Boethius, *Contra Eutychen* 1 1)

diate, moment by moment, working of Allah" Finally (p 337) he finds in Maimonides' exposition that "motion" seems to our senses to be continuous, but we know by reason that it consists of a series of leaps and rests The pictures in the cinematograph of recreation in each successive moment of time produce a continuous impression on our eyes, but it is an illusion, and reason, demonstrating that time must be in atoms, convinces us of that"

Elsewhere<sup>3</sup> Macdonald had remarked of the Muslim atomists that "these atoms of space or time, in either case without extension, are precisely the same as Aristotle's". But this would certainly not be true of the Muslim atoms as described by Maimonides, and while Aristotle's *ἄτομος ἐν* is the same as the Islamic *andar waqt* and Boethius' *nunc stans*, it is equally certain that Aristotle was not himself an atomist in the material sense Macdonald seems to be quite unaware that his own cinematographic analogy is invalid, in the first place because the successive "frames" are *not* "without extension", and secondly inasmuch as it is precisely "reason"—in this case, actually, Aristotle's "reasoning"—that makes it perfectly clear that time and space are continuous and that motion is anything but "a series of leaps and rests" Macdonald himself does not seem to realise that nothing that *has* extension can be "made of" parts that have none!

Macdonald points out that the Arabic word *jauhar*,

<sup>3</sup> D B Macdonald *The Development of Muslim Theology, Jurisprudence, and Constitutional Theory* New York, 1903, p 202

Persian *gauhar*, originally a "gem" of any kind<sup>4</sup>, "developed many secondary meanings. In philosophy it has become the broadest word for 'substance', *οὐσία*, *ens*, *essentia*, but for the atomistic philosophers it means 'atom' in the exact sense, 'a part which cannot be further parted'. Sometimes they add the word 'separate' (*fard*). Finally, just like our word 'substance', *jauhar* came to be used for a portion of matter, a physical body." Later on he quotes Ibn Hazm (d. 1064, a century and a half before Maimonides), who rejected Ash'arite doctrines and therewith that of "separate atoms" (*al jauhar al fard*), and remarks that Ibn Hazm's *jauhar* is the Aristotelian "substance", as it seems, indeed, to be. For Ibn Hazm, "Allah is perpetually giving existence to every entity, as long as it is an entity, at every moment (*waqt*) of time." Macdonald further remarks that al Ghazali, whose influence "triumphed", "seems to have rejected entirely the atomic scheme and to have attached himself to the Aristotelian-Platonic wing".

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<sup>4</sup> *Gauhar*, accordingly, as "gem" or "pearl", corresponds to Skr *mani*, a word that can be used absolutely in the singular (*Om mani padme hum*, cf. "Pearl" of great price) and in the plural not only to denote gems or pearls, but philosophically, as in the *sutra* doctrine (BG 7.7, etc.), to mean "substances" or "entities". It seems to me that that exactly corresponds to our use of "Being" absolutely, side by side with "beings", which last are, nevertheless, in reality only "becomings", participant in Being, or to the concept of *the Word* and that of "words" of which the truth depends upon their participation in the truth of that Word in which all things are spoken simultaneously.

be, consulted in Maimonides' *Guide for the Perplexed*, translated by M Friedlander, 2nd ed, 1925, p 120-144 (i.e Part 1, ch lxxiii) Maimonides is by no means describing a doctrine in which he believes, but that of the Muslim Mutakallemim, followers of "The Word" (*al qalam*), whom one might call fundamentalists, he never refers to the Sufis Having remarked of the Mutakallemim that they believed in indivisible atoms not only of matter but also of time and space, separated from one another by a vacuum, he very properly remarks that "the Mutakallemim did not at all understand the nature of time" (Third Proposition)

The foregoing is taken from Macdonald's summary in *Isis*, the original in full can be easily, and should be consulted in Maimonides' *Guide for the Perplexed*, translated by M Friedlander, 2nd ed, 1926, pp 120—121 (i.e pt 1, ch lxxxiii)

Elsewhere<sup>5</sup> Macdonald remarks that the "Ilm al-Kalam [Science of the Word] came to mean not simply theology, but scholastic theology of an atomistic type, going back most strangely to Democritus and Epicurus, and a *mutakallim* came to mean a theologian, at first a Mu'tazilite and later orthodox, behind whose orthodoxy lay the atomistic system that was Islam's most original contribution [!] to theology"<sup>6</sup> The Mutakallemim, he says, called themselves Ash'arites We realise, then, that Maimonides, on whom he (Macdonald) relies, and although he (Maimonides) lived a century

<sup>5</sup> Hasting's *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics*, II 672, 673

<sup>6</sup> How so, if derived from Democritus and Epicurus?

later than al-Hujwiri, is really telling us nothing about the Sufi doctrines of Time and time, of which the affinities are with Aristotle and the Neoplatonists, and that any confusions apparent in Maimonides' account are of little significance for us, whose concern is not with atomism as a physical hypothesis but only with the relation of extended time and traversable space to the Time and Space that are indivisible and unextended. I wonder, indeed, whether Macdonald himself understood the problems involved for he says, "the division of time into atoms, which could not be further divided . . . goes back to Zeno's paradox of Achilles and the tortoise, it was a solution of that paradox, and made motion possible",—whereas it is precisely the theory of discontinuous time that makes motion impossible!

In the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, s v Allah, 1, p 307, Macdonald quotes from his own *Development of Muslim Theology*, already cited. Of the Ash'arites he says that "when they rejected the Aristotelian view of matter as the possibility of receiving form, their path, of necessity, led them straight to the atomists. Their atoms were not of space only, but of time. The basis of all the manifestations of the world is a multitude of monads. Each has extension neither in space nor time. They have simply position, not bulk, and do not touch one another. Between them is absolute void. The time atoms, if the expression may be permitted, are equally unextended and have, also absolute void—of time—between them . . . time is only in a succession of untouching moments, and leaps across the void from one to the other with the jerk of the

hand of a clock”<sup>7</sup> Again, “no one [atom] is the cause of the other” and thus “annihilates the machinery of the universe”, i.e. ignores the operation of mediate causes. From what has been said above, it will be seen how un-Greek this all is, and how irrational, if this was Islam’s “most original contribution to theology”, it was certainly nothing to be proud of.

At the end of his treatment of the subject in *ISIS*, Macdonald proceeds to discuss “the exceedingly difficult question of the origin of this atomic scheme in Islam”. He says that it goes back in its beginnings to Muslim heresy<sup>8</sup>. By heretics he means “all who applied dialectic to questions of the Faith”. But, he asks, “how did the system of material atoms come to be combined with a system of time atoms and made into a complete theory of the origin of the universe?” He is unable to find “any trace of anything of the kind in Greek thought” and cannot believe “that the Muslim thinkers originated it”, although “they were certainly the immediate heirs of the Greek civilization so far as science and philosophy were concerned”. He remarks that “the Muslim scientific civilization cannot be explained entirely as a product of Greek influence” and that “there is a tendency at present among students

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<sup>7</sup> Need it be pointed out that the jerks of the hands of the clock are *not* movements of time? They take place in brief durations of time, which is itself continuous and uninterrupted.

<sup>8</sup> He refers to M. Horten *Philosophische Systeme der speculativen Theologen im Islam* [date?] and to De Boer’s “Atomic Theory (Muhammadan)” in Hastings’s *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics*.

of Islam to look to India for a solution of some of our remaining problems". He turns therefore to India, and suggests that the Muslim atomism is derived from Buddhist sources<sup>9</sup>

Now I am not much enamoured of researches into origins or sources undertaken in this historical manner, and prefer simply to recognise the common ground on which the traditions rest, and to regard it as one that belongs to all of them by right of inheritance from antecedent sources ultimately beyond the reach of historical investigation. The question is further complicated by the fact that the Pythagorean Platonic Aristotelian philosophies already embody so much that is equally Vedic and Buddhist, the problem of origins thus arising at the very beginning, so to speak, of our studies. If, nevertheless, we are to discuss the affinities of Islamic and Indian philosophy (not forgetting that, as Jahangir remarked, Vedanta and Tasawwuf "are the same"), it cannot be overlooked that, for

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<sup>9</sup> Known to him only from H Jacobi's "Atomic Theory (Indian)" in Hasting's *Encyclopaedia*, and from S Dasgupta's *History of Indian Philosophy* but more fully outlined above, with further references

I cannot see that the Ash'arite doctrines could have been derived from Buddhist sources, on the other hand the Sufi doctrine of the "moment" (*waqt*) could have been so derived, though it does not follow that it was in fact so derived

<sup>10</sup> On the limitations of the "historical method" cf René Guenon, *Introduction to the Study of Hindu Doctrines*, 1945 pp 18, 20, 58, 65, 237, 300. Historical method is only of limited value here, partly because metaphysical doctrines "do not 'evolve' in the Western sense of the word" and partly

them, for the rest, the literary history of ideas is of ultimate value only in so far as it can contribute to the answering of the questions, Is such and such a doctrine true, and How can it best be disentangled from individually heretical misinterpretations, and so rightly understood

We have discussed the atomism of the Mutakallemim at so much length only to dispose of it, and can now consider the Sufi doctrines of time and eternity, of which the expansion must antedate al Hujwiri's treatise

The *Kashf al-Mahjub* of al Hujwiri (d 1071-2 A. D.)<sup>11</sup>, "the most ancient and celebrated Persian treatise of Sufism" asserts "Knowledge of 'time' (*waqt*), and of all outward and inward circumstances of which the due effect depends on 'time', is incumbent on everyone" (p 13) Time has both external and internal aspects, things pertaining to the practise of religion belonging to the former, and true cognition to the latter, but these exoteric and esoteric aspects of Truth must not be divorced" (p 14),—it is not, in fact, without a full acknowledgement of the truth that "knowledge without action is not knowledge" (p 12) that the present thesis is restricted to a consideration of "Time" in its absolute and "interior" sense. In this sense, "*waqt* is that whereby a man becomes independent of past and future" Those who possess it say "we are happy with God in the present (*andar*

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<sup>11</sup> The page references are to R. A. Nicholson's version Gibb Memorial Series XVII 1st ed. 1911



change, and is made steadfast (*mustaqim*) in his state. . He who is [still] in the state of becoming (*mutakawwin*)<sup>14</sup> may be forgetful, and on him who is thus forgetful *hal* descends and *waqt* is made stable. Thus, Jacob had *waqt*, "now he was blinded by separation, now he was restored to sight by union" But "Abraham was a possessor of *hāl* he was not conscious of separation, that he should be stricken with grief, nor of union, that he should be filled with joy" (pp 373-4) The "interior Time" is the "instant of illumination" that is so often compared to a flash of lightning, it is only when "the light is constant, and the instant has become all time"<sup>15</sup> that the Sun "never sets"<sup>16</sup>

Jami, in the *Lawa'ih* ("Flashes", Clartes), XXVI<sup>17</sup>, summarises the doctrine of the Moment (or "interior

<sup>14</sup> *Kaun*, as remarked by D B Macdonald, *l c supra*, p 329, is to "become", the infinitive serving for the noun, just as *werden* means "becoming" It would follow that the creative Word *kun* (imp of *kaun*) is the Command, "Become", and that for the usual rendering "God said, or says, Be, and it was, or is" should be substituted "God said, or says Become, and it became, or becomes" This would also agree with the meaning of the expressions *du kaun*, "the two becomings", past and future

<sup>15</sup> Maurice Browne *The Atom and the Way*, London, 1946, p 36 Cf p 19, "illumination occurs instantaneously and, for most of us, lasts but a moment It is by no means momentary, however, for all" Cf W Allen, *The Timeless Moment*, London, 1946

<sup>16</sup> See above, pp 13, 15

<sup>17</sup> E H Whinfield and M M Kazwini, *Lawa'ih*, Oriental Translation Fund XVI, London 1906, pp 42-45

Time") according to Ibnu'l-'Arabi: "the universe consists of accidents pertaining to a single substance, which is the Reality underlying all existences. This universe is changed and renewed unceasingly at every moment and every breath. Every instant one universe is annihilated and another resembling it takes its place. In consequence of this rapid succession, the spectator is deceived into the belief that the universe is a permanent existence.

The being of the world's a wave, it lasts  
 One moment, and the next it has to go  
 In the world, men of insight may discern  
 A stream whose currents swirl and surge and churn,  
 And from the force that works within the stream  
 The hidden working of the Truth may learn 18

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<sup>18</sup> Compare the hymn by Isaac Watts (1719)

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
 Are like an evening gone,  
 Short as the watch that ends the night  
 Before the rising sun  
 Time, like an ever rolling stream  
 Bears all its sons away

"Before the rising sun" i.e. "Dawn", the instant *samdhī* separating and uniting night and day (past and future) called also *brahma bhūti*, "Theosis". In nearly the same way, Persian *fajr*, ordinarily "daybreak" or "dawn" is also the *nūr i tajallī*, the Light of the Divine Epiphany (Nicholson, Comment on *Mathnawī* 5 3309). For a fuller discussion of this meeting place of Day and Night see my "Symplegades" in *M. F. Ashley Montagu Studies Offered in Homage to George Sarton*, 1947, p. 463ff, cf. above, p. 23, note 3, and pp. 78-80.

Thus, it never happens that the Very Being is revealed for two successive moments under the guise of the same phenomenon”

R A Nicholson similarly summarises Ibnu'l-'Arabi's doctrine “Phenomena are perpetually changing and being created anew, while God remains as He ever was, is, and shall be The whole infinite series of individualisations is in fact one eternal and everlasting *tajalli* [illumination] which never repeats itself”, adding in a Footnote the important reservation “but there is no moment of not being between the successive acts of creation”, taking this from al 'Arabi, *Fusuṣu' Hikam*, 196 f<sup>19</sup> Both the *Lawa'ih* and Nicholson emphasize a distinction between the Ibnu'l 'Arabi's true doctrine and that of the Ash'arite “atomists” who seem to have believed in an independent reality of momentary monads, whereas “Ibnu'l 'Arabi will brook no *secundum quid*, not even one that endures only for a moment” Here we seem to meet again with the distinction of a materialist atomism from the very different principle of an atomic time or space without duration or dimensions, and therefore immaterial

The concept of the absolute and indivisible Time, or Eternity, reappears again in Jalalu'd Din Rumi's magnificent *Mathnawi* The saying that “this world is but a moment” (*sa at*)<sup>20</sup> is attributed to the Prophet

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<sup>19</sup> R A Nicholson, *Studies in Islamic Mysticism*, Cambridge 1921, p 154

<sup>20</sup> Cf *Mathnawi* 3 2074-2075 “to escape from the moments (*sa at*) is to escape from change When for a moment you escape from the moments, mode is no more’ Note also

action would be in vain. But these accidents are transient in another guise, the recurrence of everything mortal is another existence. All the parts of the world are the result of nothing but accident. This is produced by that, and that by this, in productive succession. This world and that are forever giving birth, every cause is a mother, the effect is born as its child, and when the effect was born, that, too, became a cause" (*Mathnawi*, 2 960-1000<sup>22</sup>) But the operation of this causality is mysterious, "hidden, and not clearly seen"<sup>23</sup>

Again, regarding the man transcending space, in whom is the Light of God, what has *he* to do with the past, or future, or present? "His existence in time past or future is only in relation to you, both are the same to Him, but you think them two" (*Mathnawi* 111 1152-3) "Feed me, for I am hungry, and make haste, for 'the Moment (*waqt*) is a cutting sword', and the Sufi is a 'son of the Moment' (*ibnu'l waqt*), it is not the rule of the Way to say 'to-morrow'" (*Mathnawi* 1 132-3, cf 111 2628 and note) Nicholson's note on 1 133 quotes from Faridu'd Din 'Attar, *Tadhkiratu'l Awliya* 2 179 10 "A thousand years multiplied by a thousand years to come are present (*naqd*) to thee in this 'Moment' (*waqt*) in which thou art", and on 1 1142 8 Wali Muhammad's explanation that "the Sufis believe that at every moment a world (*'alamî*) is annihilated and that instantaneously the like of it comes

<sup>22</sup> Cf St Augustine "The world is pregnant with the causes of things as yet unborn" (*De Trin* III 9 16)

<sup>23</sup> As in Sanskrit, *adrsta*

into existence, because God has opposite attributes which never cease to be displayed; e.g. He is both Muhyi, 'the One who brings to life', and Mumit, 'the One who puts to death<sup>21</sup>'. So "this 'I-hood' comes to me from Him moment by moment" for so long as I live" (*Mathnawi* 1. 2917): "every instant that Loved One assumes a new garment" (Shams-i-Tabriz, *Diwān*)<sup>25</sup>.

The Šūfi, then is "the son of the Moment"... the Šūfi's kind father, who is the 'Moment', does not let him be reduced to the necessity of looking to the morrow... He (the Sūfi) is of the River<sup>26</sup>, not of time, for 'with God is neither morn nor eve': there the past and the and the future and time without beginning and time without end do not exist... He (the Sūfi) is the

<sup>21</sup> "The root of the mystery" of the only momentary reality of existences is referred to the opposite attributes also by Jāmi, *Lau'ih* 26; these are respectively those of Mercy and Majesty (*jamāl* and *jalāl*) of which the reflections in this world man calls good and evil, existence and death God is he "who killeth and maketh alive" (AV 13 3 3, I Sam 2 6, I Kings 5 7)

<sup>25</sup> For this origin of "I-hood" cf. §B 7 3 2 12 (see my "Sunkiss", JAOS 60 47), and for the "garments", BG 2 22, *Phacdo* 87 D, and Meister Eckhart, Pfeiffer p 530 ("volgunge ist materie, daz du sēle an sich nimet niuwe forme unde begit die sie vor hāte Daz si ūz einer wandelt in die andern, daz ist ir tōt, under der si ūz get, der stirbet si, die si an sich nimet, dā inne lebet sie")

<sup>26</sup> Here, of course, the "River" is *not* the "stream of time", but its source "ein brunne in der gotheit, der an allen dingen ūz fluzet in der ewikeit und in der zit" (Meister Eckhart, Pfeiffer p 530)

son of that 'moment' by which is to be understood only a denial of the divisions of times, just as 'God is One' is to be understood only as a denial of duality, not as a description of the true nature of Unity" (*Mathnawi*, VI 2715, Heading) Nicholson's Note points out that "River" here represents "the indivisible continuity of the spiritual world, where all things 'coexist in an eternal Now'", also, on VI 2782, that inasmuch as the uninterrupted coming and going of thoughts "never ceases for a single instant, they must be phenomenal manifestations of an Essence which alone is changeless and permanent" Time, in other words, is an imitation of eternity, as becoming is of being, and as thinking is of knowing

## V

## CHRISTIAN AND MODERN

In Christianity, the significance of the Present is asserted by the words of Christ, "Let the dead bury their dead"<sup>1</sup> and "Take no thought for the morrow" (Mat. 8. 22 and 6. 34). Aristotle's *ἄτομος* *ἰς* is unmistakable in I Cor. 15. 51, 52 "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (*ἐν ἰσχύρῳ, ἐν ἰσχυρῇ ὄργασμοῦ*), at the last trump... the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed"<sup>2</sup>; a dictum that also reminds us of the Buddhist "Single-instant Awakening" (*eḷa-kṣana-sambodhi*). For, again, just as for Aristotle and the Buddhists, corruptibility is inseparable from any existence in time; and to be "raised incorruptible" can only imply a passing over from the flux of temporal exist-

<sup>1</sup> Who are "the dead"? "Dead is the man of yesterday, for he has died into the man of today, and the man of today is dying into the man of to-morrow" (Plutarch, *Mor* 392 D)

<sup>2</sup> This can be applied by no means only to the resurrection of the body in the distant future but (as in Islām) to the present moment of enlightenment, when "the soul which lay dead in a living body doth rise again" (St Augustine, *Sermo [De scrip N T]* 88, 3 3), or as St Thomas expresses it to "the first instant that grace inheres".

ence to a present eternity in which there is neither any yesterday nor a to morrow, and in which the Christian has already lived in so far as he has been able to fulfil the commands of Christ to have done with the past and to take no thought for the morrow. I think it is in just this sense that A. A. Bowman observes that "the religious preoccupation with life is specifically the preoccupation with a life of experience which is momentarily reborn in every fleeting instant"<sup>3</sup> and it would appear that the true Christian is really expected to be, and will be, as much as the Sufi, a "son of the moment", and as much as the Buddhist Arahant a Freed man, "for whom there is neither past nor future" (S 1 141)<sup>4</sup> The reality of the eternal present is bound up also with that of the Holy Ghost, whose operation is immediate,—“And suddenly (ἄφνω) these came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind” (Acts 2. 2)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> A. A. Bowman, *Studies in the Philosophy of Religion*, 1938, 2. 346 Cf. Rene Guénon "he who cannot escape from the standpoint of temporal succession is incapable of the least conception of the metaphysical order" (*La métaphysique orientale*, Paris 1939, p. 17)

<sup>4</sup> "Think on God and thou wilt find 'is' where 'has been' and 'shall be' cannot be" (St Augustine, *In Joan Evang* 38 10)

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Acts 22 6 "Suddenly (ἐξαίφνης) there shone from heaven a great light", and II Cor 6 2 "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation" (ἴδοι τὴν καιρὸς εὐπροσδεκτός, ἴδου νῦν ἡμερὰ σωτηρίας)

"Sudden" (*sub-iti-aneus*) is literally "going stealthily", and ἄφνω also has the meaning "mysteriously", and we find these ideas also in India with reference to the divine procession and immanence, for example, in RV 1 145 4 where Agni *sadyo*



In this connection St. Thomas, discussing the problem, Whether the Justification of the Ungodly Takes Place in an Instant or Successively (*Sum. Theol.* I-II. 113. 7) decides that such justification is "not successive, but *instantaneous*"<sup>6</sup> [i.e. just what the Buddhist would have called a "single-instant awakening"]; for such a justification depends upon the movement of Grace, which is sudden, and man's free-will "whose movement is by nature instantaneous"<sup>7</sup>, the justification cannot be successive, because "to will and not to will—the movements of the free-will—are not successive, but instantaneous"<sup>8</sup>. In answer to the further objection that opposite conditions cannot coincide in the same instant and so there must be a last instant in the state of sin

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*jātas tatsara*, for which Grassmann writes "kaum geboren schleicht" and one might say "like a thief in the night", or Mund Up 1.1.6 and 2.2.16, *adresyam agrahyam sūsukmam ... guhacara .. antas carate bahudhā jayamānah*, as in Maitri Up 2.5 *sa va esa sūksmo'grāhy'drsyah . ihavavartate*

Further, as to this speed: "Even now when I (God) am present here, I stand at the same time also there" (Philo, *Sacr* 68); "it (νοῦς) has not moved as one moves from place to place, but it is there" (Hermes Trismegistos, 16.2.19), "the One, immobile, is swifter than the mind .. past others running, *this goes standing*" (Isā Up 4)

<sup>6</sup> St Thomas' "instant" is strictly atomic, and his argument rests upon the fact that such instants are not parts of time

<sup>7</sup> In the things above time no interval whatever divides cause from effect or beginning from end. It would be an interesting hermeneia—not, of course, an etymology—to connect "repentance" with *repente*

<sup>8</sup> "The journey of the spirit is unconditioned with respect to time and space" (Rūmī, *Mathnawī*, 3 1980)

and another in the state of grace, he replies that "the succession of opposites in the same subject must be looked at differently in the things that are subject to time and in those that are above time. For in those that are in time, there is no 'last instant' in which the previous form inheres in the subject, but there is the last time, and the first instant that the subsequent form inheres in the matter or subject, and this for the reason, that in time we are not to consider one instant as immediately preceding another instant, since neither do instants succeed each other immediately in time, nor points in a line, as is proved [by Aristotle] in *Phys* VI 1. But time is *terminated* by an instant. Hence in the whole of the previous time wherein anything is moving towards its form, it is under the opposite form, but in the last instant of this time, which is [also] the first instant of the subsequent time, it has the form which is the term of the moment. But in those things that are above time it is otherwise. That which is justified is the human mind, and this is above time, though it is subject to time accidentally, in so far as it understands with continuity and time<sup>9</sup>. We must therefore say that there is no last instant that sin inheres, but a last time, whereas there is a first instant

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<sup>9</sup> In other words aeviternal, like the angels or, as reason mortal, and as intellect immortal (though "reason" is some times used in the sense of "intellect", and had originally this higher meaning). On the "two minds" (mortal and immortal) cf my "On Being in One's Right Mind" in *Review of Religion* 7, 1942 32-40. "metanoia" is a change, i.e. transformation, of mind.

that grace inheres, and in all the time previous sin inhered”

All this might have been expressed, and perhaps even more clearly, in terms of the circle (*ο τροχος της γενεσεως*, *bhava-cakra*) and its (seventh) ray, temporal succession corresponding to motion along its circumference and the *ex tempore* motion of free will to centrifugal motion (fall or descent into matter) and centripetal motion (ascension or resurrection)

In the *Summa Contra Gentiles* I 14, 15 St Thomas discusses the eternity of God. He bases his argument on the assertions of God's *immutability* in Malach 3 6, Jac 1 17 and Num 23 19, he quotes Aristotle, “time is the enumeration of motion” (*Phys* 11-5-219 B) and points out that only those things that are in time can be measured, but “God does not move at all, and so cannot be measured by time, neither does he exist ‘before or after’ or no longer exist after having existed, nor can any succession be found in Him but has the whole of His existence at once (*simul*), and that is the nature (*ratio*) of eternity”, and he concludes with Ps 101 13 (102 12) “But thou, O Lord shalt endure for ever” and 28 (27) “But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end”

In the *Summa Theologica* I 10 “On the Immutability of God”, St Thomas distinguishes more fully between time, aeviternity, and eternity “The idea of time consists in the numbering of before and after in movement, so likewise in the apprehension of the uniformity of what is outside movement, consists the idea of eternity. Further, those things are said to be measured by

time which have a beginning and end in time... But as whatever is wholly immutable can have no succession, so it has no beginning and no end... Eternity is called 'whole', not because it has parts, but because it is wanting in nothing... the expression 'simultaneously whole' is used to remove the idea of time, and the word 'perfect' to exclude the *now of time*... The *now that stands still* is said to make eternity<sup>10</sup>... Aeviternity differs from time, and from eternity, as the mean between them both... The angels, who have an unchangeable being as regards their nature with changeableness as regards choice... are measured by aeviternity... Time has before and after; aeviternity in itself has neither before nor after, which can, however, be annexed to it; while eternity has neither before nor after, nor is it compatible with such at all. [But] aeviternity is sometimes taken for 'age', that is, a space of a thing's duration; and thus we say 'many aeviternities' when we mean 'ages'".

"Aeviternity", then, is the term that could be applied to the lifetime of the Indian Gods "born with a life (*āyus*, cf. *αἰών*)<sup>11</sup> of a 'thousand years'; even as one

<sup>10</sup> "The *now of time* is the same as regards its subject in the whole course of time, but it differs in aspect. as being here and there. Likewise the flow of the *now* as alternating in aspect, is time. But eternity remains the same according to both subject and aspect, and hence eternity is not the same as the *now of time*" (I 10 4 ad 2). This is, of course, Aristotelian, as well as according to Boethius.

<sup>11</sup> Etymologically cognate, both words can mean either "life" or "age". The IE root is *ǵ*, to "go", (present also in *αἰών*, *ἀεί*, *aevum*, *aeternus*, *ewig*, ever and aye), in its fre-

might see in the distance the farther shore, even so did they behold the farther shore of their own life" (*Śatapatha Brahmana* 11 1 6 15, cf *Taittiriya Samhita* 5.7 3f), their "not dying" (*amṛtattva*) contrasting on the one hand with that of the man who lives for a hundred years, "not dying" prematurely, and on the other with the timeless immortality of Brahma

Further (*Sum Theol* I 10 6), "time is one" Not because it is a number, "for time is not a number abstracted from the thing numbered, but existing in the thing numbered"<sup>12</sup>, otherwise it would not be continuous, for ten ells of cloth are continuous not by reason of the number [ten], but by reason of the thing numbered". The position is quite Aristotelian, the piece of cloth does not stop being a piece of cloth at the end of each yard and then begin again, it is one piece of cloth, and so in the case of any extent, whether

quantitative sense, that of continuation in a given state, it implies to "exist" or "be" When Agni is contrasted with the other Gods, as "the only immortal", he can be called *visvayus*, "the whole of life", and this totality is analogous to fulness of a man's "whole life" (*sarvam ayus*) who does not die before old age

On αἰών as [like *ayus*] the complete period, either of each particular life or of all existence, v Aristotle, *De Coelo* 1 9 15, on αἰών and χρόνος, cf Philo 1 496, 619" (Liddell and Scott)

<sup>12</sup> This seems also to have been William of Ockham's view "his main purpose in the *Tractatus de successivis* is to show that motion, place, and time are not entities separate from the respective realities, viz, the moved body, the located body, and the moved body in time Ockham thinks this the true opinion of Aristotle" (P Boehner, *The Tractatus de Successivis attributed to William of Ockham*, St Bonaventura, N Y, 1944, p 30)

the Father [in spirit and in truth] must set him in Eternity with his longings and his hopes There is one, the highest part of the soul, that stands above time and knows nought of time or body All that happened a thousand years ago, the day that was a thousand years ago is in Eternity no farther off than the very hour I am in now, nor is the day to come a thousand or as many years hence as could be counted any farther off in Eternity than is this very hour that I am in" (Pfeiffer pp 44, 45, 57)

So also when he speaks of the world as a "circle"<sup>23</sup>, centred upon God, whose works are its circumference "This is the circle that the soul runs round, all that the Holy Trinity hath ever wrought. . and, as it says in the Book of Love, 'When I found it ever endless, then I cast myself into the centre of the round (*das punt des zirkels*) That point is the power of the Trinity, where it hath done all its work, itself unmoved Therein the soul becomes omnipotent . therewith atoned (*geeiniget*) she is capable of all things the essential point, where God is just as far from as he is near to all creatures<sup>24</sup> there is she eternally insistent" (*ewikliche dar bestetiget wirt, ib* pp 503, 504)

<sup>23</sup> St James' *ὁ τροχὸς τῆς γενέσεως*, and Indian *bhava cakra* the cycle of time On the symbolism of the circle of Dionysius, *De div nom* 5 6, St Thomas Aquinas, *De principio scientiae Dei* 14, René Guénon *Le symbolisme de la croix* and my "Vedic Exemplarism" in *HJAS* I 45

<sup>24</sup> *Satapatha Brahmana* 10 5 2 17 'Both near and far away, for inasmuch as He is here on earth in the flesh He is near, and inasmuch as He is That One in yonder world He is also far away'

This is the point that St Bonaventura speaks of when he compares God to a circle, of which the centre is everywhere (*Itin mentis* 5), Dante's *punta*, a cui la prima rota va dintorno, and the *bindu* that marks the centre of every Indian *mandala* and *yantra*

And, further, as regards this Point, which is *the* Point of Time, "to know it we must be in it, beyond the mind and above our created being, in that Eternal Point where all our lines begin and end, that Point where they lose their name and all distinction, and become one with the Point itself, and that very One which the Point is, yet ever remain in themselves nought else but lines that come to an end" (Ruysbroeck, *De septem custodius*, ch 19)

All this symbolism is bound up with the doctrine that equates the persons of the "severalty of Gods" (Visve Devah i.e. the hierarchy of Angels, Intelligences or Powers), and likewise the Justified Deceased with the rays of the Intelligible Sun<sup>25</sup> as, e.g. in RV 1 109 7 "there be the very rays with which the Fathers of old were united", 10 64 13 "where we are met together at the Nave, Aditi confirms our kinship", ŚB 1 9 3 10 "the rays of Him who glows yonder are the Perfected (*sukrtah*)<sup>26</sup>, and what highest light there is<sup>27</sup>, that is Prajapati", and 2 3 1 7 "the rays, indeed, are the Several Gods, and what highest light there is,

<sup>25</sup> "Not the sun whom all men see, but Him whom few know with the mind", AV 10 8 14, for parallels, see *Psychiatry* 8, 1945, p 288, Note 7

<sup>26</sup> "As a Perfected (*sukrta* = *vileos*) Self, I passed into the uncreated Brahma world" (CU 8 13)

that is verily *Prajāpati*, or *Indra*"<sup>27</sup>, so that "under the theory of procession by powers, souls are described as rays" (Plotinus, *Enneads* 6 4 3), and "there shalt thou back into thy Centre fall, a conscious Ray of that eternal All" (*Manṣiqu f Tair*) It will be observed that these, together with the concept of "motion at will" (passing in and out) preclude any pantheistic interpretation on the heretical sense of the word<sup>28</sup>, were there no multiplicity in unity, to "pass in and out" would be meaningless, what the doctrine implies is a "fusion without confusion" or "distinction without difference" (*bhedabheda*),—one end of any ray is confused with its centre, the other distinct from it, and the Perfected are both

Dante, when he is speaking of Eternity, makes many references to this "essential point" or "moment" All times are present to It (*il punto a cui tutti li tempi son presenti, Paradiso* 17 17), there every where and every when are focussed (dove s'appunta ogni *ubi* ed ogni *quando*, *ib* 29 12) "The nature of the universe, such that it stills the centre and moves all the rest around, hence doth begin as from its turning post" (*meta, ib* 27 106)<sup>29</sup>, and "from that point depend heaven and

<sup>27</sup> I.e. the Sun himself, represented by the solar disk, the Sun-door

<sup>28</sup> In the proper sense, of course, a "pantheism" is in evitable, for if God be less than All, there will be something external to his essence, by which he will be, not infinite, but limited

<sup>29</sup> In this metaphor of a chariot race, a "circus", I think *meta* is not literally the starting point but the post round which the turn is made



all nature" (28 41)<sup>30</sup>, It is a flaming point of light, and "round it there wheeled a circle of fire so rapidly it has surpassed the motion which doth swiftest gird the universe" (28 25)<sup>31</sup>, and this heaven "hath no other *where* than the divine mind" (27 109)<sup>31</sup>, "there, perfect, ripe and whole is each desire, in it alone is every part there where it ever was, for it is not in space, nor hath it poles whereby it thus doth steal it from thy sight" (22 64) Also, he says, "neither before nor after was God's 'moving on the face of the waters'" (29 20),—and, to cite Philo Judaeus, "there is an end, then, of the notion that the universe came into being 'in six days'" (LA 1 20) "every moment the world is renewed, life is ever arriving anew" (Rumi, *Mathnawi* 1 1142)

"Nor hath it poles", that is, contraries, or pairs of opposites, this is "the Paradise in which Thou, God, dwellest", of which the wall, as Nicolas of Cusa says, "is built of the contradictories"—of which the past and future are, from the present standpoint, the most significant pair, "veiling us from the vision of God", as Rumi says—and whoever would enter in must first have overcome the highest Spirit of Reason that guards the strait gate that distinguishes them (*De vis Dei* Ch 9)<sup>32</sup> These contraries, of which the extended world

<sup>30</sup> 'Imperishable Brahma flame, less than the least wherein are set the worlds and all things in them' (Mund Up 2 2 2), "like a sparkling fiery wheel" (Maitri Up 6 24)

<sup>31</sup> It is only in this sense that God can be thought of as a "place" *τοπος*, in Gnostic texts *loka* in the Upanisads

<sup>32</sup> The Logos "I am the door by me "

is made, are the Symplegades, that must be passed by every traveller homeward bound. Moreover, Cusa says, "Whatever is seen by us in time, thou, Lord God, didst not *pre-conceive*, as it is. For in the eternity in which thou dost conceive"<sup>33</sup>, all temporal succession coincides in one and the same Eternal Now. So there is nothing past or future where past and future coincide in the present. Thou indeed my God, who art thyself Eternity absolutely, art, and speakest [thy Word] above the now and then" (*ib* ch 10). And so "Draw me, O Lord, for none can reach thee save he be drawn by thee, free me from this world and join me (*μ. ngar*, Skr *ī'ṣaī*) unto thee, God absolutely, in the eternity of glorious life Amen" (*ib* ch 25).

At this point it will be convenient to consider briefly the curious resistance that contemporary mentalities oppose to the concept of a static being definable only by negations of all limiting affirmations, all procedure from one experience to another. The most striking aspect of this resistance is the fact that it is almost always based on feelings: the question of the truth or falsity of a traditional doctrine is hardly ever raised, and all that seems to matter is whether one likes the doctrine or not. This is the sentimentality of those who would rather than arrive at any goal, keep on going not merely until it is reached, but "throughout all time", and who confuse their activity, which is only an un-

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<sup>33</sup> Of this conception Meister Eckhart speaks elsewhere as 'the act of fecundation latent in eternity'. It coincides with the eternal birth of the Word by whom all things were made.

finished procedure from potentiality to act, with a *being* in act

Thus R A Nicholson protests that "to our minds the atoms, which have extension neither in space nor in time, seem insubstantial enough" (*Studies in Islamic Mysticism*, 1921, p 154) The objection may be with special reference to the Ash'arite atoms as constituents of real magnitudes, but applies as well to the unique Atomic Time or Now of Eternity that we have been considering" As W H Sheldon remarks, "men *feel* that what cannot be put in terms of time is meaningless" but, he continues, "the notion of a static, immutable being ought to be understood rather as signifying a process so intensely vivacious, in terms of time as extremely swift, so as to comprise beginning and end at one stroke" (*Modern Schoolman* 21 133) We cannot and may not, in fact, ignore that these who speak of a static, immutable, and timeless being above the partiality of time, also speak of it as an immediately beatific experience and possession of all things that have ever been or shall ever come into being in time, not to mention the realisation of other possibilities that are not possibilities of manifestation in time, it is a more and not a less "life" that subsists in the "naught" that embraces all things, but is "none" of them In the same way men recoil from Nirvāṇa (literally, "despiration"), although it pertains to the definition of Nirvāṇa to say that "he who finds it, finds all" (*sabbam etena labbhati*, KhP 8) and that it is the "supreme beatitude" (*paramam sukham, Nīl āyas, passim*)<sup>1</sup>

"Eternal time" (Time, as distinct from the time that flies), as Boethius says, "is the total and perfect possession of interminable life in its simultaneity" The answer to what men "feel" when they shrink from "eternity", just as they shrink from the "self-naughting" that shocks them only because they have not, in themselves, distinguished between the Self that "never became anyone" from the inconstant Ego of "this man, so and so", is to be found in such words as those of Meister Eckhart "to have all that has being and is lustily to be desired and brings delight, to have it simultaneously and partless (*zomâle ungeteilet*) in the soul entire and that in God, revealed in its unveiled perfection, where first it burgeons forth<sup>31</sup> and in the ground of its essence, and all there grasped where God grasps himself,—that is happiness And yet another

<sup>31</sup> *In dem ersten Ausbruche* so, neither yet displayed (future) nor still hidden (past), but unmanifest manifest (*vjaktavjakta*) On this state of perfect promise and eternal bloom, the state of highest tension conceivable which is also the paradigm of an ideal art, see my "Theory and Practise of Art in India", *Technical Studies* 3 1934, p 75 This perfect moment occurs at "Dawn", cf *Mayūra's Surjāsataka* 26 "Rather, at the time of beginning, when the splendour of the Sun, like a painter's brush uncloses as it were [an opening eye or flower] the whole world picture" It is like the archer's stance at the moment of release, when the arrow is on the point of leaving, and as in Chinese art "the movement represented is the pause before the action begins when the body is [still] tense' (H Fernal in the *Burlington Magazine* Jan 1936, p 26) It is remarkable that the Shakers also held that that beauty is best which is "peculiar to the flower", not that "which belongs to the ripened fruit"

Fulness of Time if someone had the art and the power to gather up the time and all that ever happened in six thousand years or that shall be until the end of the world<sup>35</sup>, all this assembled in one present Now (*ein gegenwertic nû*), that would be the 'Fulness of Time' That is the Now of Eternity (*daz nû der êwikeit*), when the soul knows all things as they are in God, as new and fresh and lovely, as I find them now" (Pfeiffer p 105)

Such is the Fulness, from which, as the Upanishad puts it, "if Fulness be taken, Fulness still remains" (BU 5 1) No Sufi, no one in *samadhi*<sup>36</sup>, no Western mystic, *raptus*, ever felt diminished by his "moment of illumination" To see "the world in a grain of sand, and eternity in an hour"—if one only could—for whom would it not be enough? Freedom to be as and where and when one will, or everywhere, or nowhere—does such a liberty as this imply a privation only because the word *in* dependent states a positive good in the negative terms of a freedom from all limitations, the existence of which is inseparable from any form of existence in time and space? How can one "feel" that there must be something wanting in an "eternity" that by definition "wants for nothing"? In this "all-obtaining" (*sarvapti*)<sup>37</sup> there remain no desires whatever un-

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<sup>35</sup> I.e. throughout all time in the then generally accepted sense but rather, as a Hindu might express it, throughout all times of which the present world age is only one It would have been the same for Origen

<sup>36</sup> Literally and etymologically "synthesis"

<sup>37</sup> "The Spirit of Life (*prana*) is the Prognostic Self (*prajñ*)

satisfied; nor can one imagine a being "without desire" otherwise than when all desires are satisfied, desire then being at rest in its object. It is a matter of experience for those who speak of it so certainly, and those who live as they lived will see what they saw; but for others, is such an experience one to be shunned, or one to be desired?<sup>35</sup>

Here, because "all change is a dying", as Plato (*Euthydemus* 283 D, cf. *Parmenides* 163 A, B), Meister Eckhart, and our whole tradition recognize, every meeting is a meeting for the first time, and every parting is for ever. Meetings and partings (of which birth and death are but special cases) are only possible in time, and they please or grieve us only because "we" are or, rather, mistakenly identify ourselves with, the mutable psycho-physical tabernacles that our Self assumes, and so think of ourselves as creatures of time. It is

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*ātman*), Life and Immortality together... Whoever approaches Me as Life and Immortality, he lives out his life in this world, and obtains inexhaustible (*akṣiti*) immortality in the world of heavenly-light. This is the 'All-obtaining' in the Spirit of Life" (Kaus Up 3 2.3).

<sup>35</sup> I am aware that there are modern men for whom the satisfaction of all possible desires would not suffice, beyond that, they want to entertain and to pursue others not yet satisfied. These are those who have never known what it means to be contented with a little, and cannot imagine a state of contentment even though possessed of everything there is to be desired, men "who would not like to live without hunger and thirst if they could not also suffer the natural consequences of these passions" (Plato, *Philebus* 54 E), men who forget that nothing more can be added to infinity

as creatures of time that the fading of flowers and the death of friends distresses us. There are such and such desires or loves (*kamah*) that men feel and these "are real (or true), but overlaid by falsity (or unreality). For, indeed, whoever of one's loves deceases, one no more gets a sight of *here*. But those who are still alive here, and those deceased, and whatever else one wishes for but does not get, all this he finds who enters in *there*" (Chandogya Up 8 2 1, 2). This does not mean that "here" and "there" are simply here and now on the one hand, and there and hereafter (post mortem) on the other, for the universe itself, "all beings and all these desires are content (*samahitah*)"<sup>39</sup> in this 'City of God' [the living body], in the ether of the heart<sup>40</sup>. But what is left over (*atisisyate*)<sup>41</sup> of the 'city' when age overtakes it and it breaks up?<sup>42</sup> What is left over

<sup>39</sup> *Samahita* "in *samadhi*" literally and etymologically, "synthesised"

<sup>40</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is within you"

<sup>41</sup> The same question is asked in Katha Up 4 3 5 4 and answered, "That", i.e. Brahma God. If St Paul could say, "I live, yet not I, but Christ in me", what would have been "left over" when this man Paul died? "The body of man is subject to overmastering death but the image of Eternity (*αιωνο, εδωλον*) remaineth (*λειπεται* = *atisisyate*) alive" Pindar, *Durge* 131. "It is in the soul of man that is, the rational or intellectual soul, that we must find that image of the Creator which is immortally planted in its immortality. And this image of God when, finally, it shall altogether adhere to Him will be 'one spirit' [I Cor 6 17] then, it will live immutably" (St Augustine, *De Trin*)

<sup>42</sup> "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Hebr 13 14)

of it is the true (or real) 'City of God'<sup>43</sup>,—the sorrowless, ageless, deathless Self (*atman*)<sup>44</sup> whose desire is true (or real), whose concepts are real<sup>45</sup>. Those who fare away having already found (or known) here the Self and those true desires (or loves), they become 'movers-at-will' in every world" (*ib* 8 I 1-6)<sup>46</sup> And this concept of the "two cities" and of true and false desires is Augustinian, but before him, Platonic, for

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<sup>43</sup> "Two loves have created these two cities—the earthly and the heavenly—Wherefore let every man question himself as to what he loveth, and he shall find of which he is a citizen" (St Augustine, *De civ Dei* 14 28 and *In Ps* 64 2), and "right is he who should grieve without a limit, who, for the love of what endureth not, eternally doth strip him of this love, the love that breathes aright" (*Paradiso* 15 10 13 + 2)

<sup>44</sup> "the self subsistent undesirous youthful Self, unaging and undying whom if one knows, he fears not death" (Atharva Veda 10 8 440) For the "City of God" (*brahmapura* see *ib* 10 2. 28-33)

<sup>45</sup> The last words, descriptive of the Self, are repeated and further expanded in *Matrī Up* 7 7

"The objects of earthly loves are mortal hurtful and loves of shadows that change and pass, for these are not what we really love, not the good that we are really in search of. But there is the true object of our love, where we can be with it, grasp it and really possess where no covering of flesh excludes", Plotinus, *Enneads* 6 9 9

<sup>46</sup> I.e. "shall pass in and out and find pasture" (John 10 9), *Taitt Up* 3 10 5 "up and down these worlds eating what he will and assuming what aspect he will", RV 1 113 9 "where there is motion at will", *Cloud of Unknowing*, ch 59 "so subtle in body and in soul together, that we shall be then swiftly where us list bodily, as we be now in our thought ghostly"



“there are false pleasures in the souls of men, imitations or caricatures of the true pleasures” (*Philebus* 40 C), of which the false pleasures (*ψειδεῖς ἡδοναί*) are affects, mixed with pain, and the true (*ἀληθεῖς*),<sup>47</sup> those that are taken in beauty, primarily as exhibited in mathematical forms, and those of learning<sup>48</sup>, in which there is no admixture of pain (*ib* 51) In other words, Augustine’s, while we are thinking of eternal things, the things that do not change, we are participating in eternity Eternity is not far away from us, but nearer than time, of which both parts are really far away, one far ahead of us and the other far behind us, whatever is true, however, was always true and will be true for ever “Truth”, alike in Brahmanism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity is as much as Eternity one of the

<sup>47</sup> *Ὅ γε το δν λεγων ναι τα δντα ταληθη λεγει Euthydemus* 284 A, Verum mihi videtur id quod est, St Augustine, *Soliloq* lib 2, c 5, n 8 But the truth of facts and the truth of principles pertain to different levels of reference Skr *satyam* (*vas* to “be”), “truth” or ‘reality’ can likewise be predicated either relatively of temporalia or absolutely of immutable being For a fuller discussion see above, pp 2, and 25, n 6

<sup>48</sup> Not, of course, a mere erudition, but “the learning that draws the soul away from becoming to being” knowledge of the “essence that is for ever, and is not made to wander between generation and destruction” (Plato, *Republic* 485 B, 521 D) “all true knowledge is concerned with what is colourless, formless, and intangible not such knowledge as has a beginning and varies as it is associated with one or another of the things that we now call ‘realities’, but that which is really real” (*Phaedrus* 247), “really real” corresponding to *satyasya satyam, paramartha satyam* ens realissimum, το ὄντως δν

names of God, and it is only our forgetfulness that makes us need to pray "O thou who changest not, abide with me", as a Sufi might desire to make his *u aqf, hāl*. If the eternal basis of existence—*dhamma*—is both here and now (*ditthe dhamme*) and timeless (*akaliko*), it might be well to see what it "feels" like here and now, before "feeling" so much afraid of it. If, indeed, we do not participate in eternity *now*, perhaps we never shall<sup>49</sup>.

There is also another way in which the nature of the experience of eternity can be suggested. It can be assumed that a given mind cannot think of more than one thing at a time. But this does not mean that the life of the intellect is only arithmetical. Even the giving of names to things, an intellectual power, is the endowment of many successive events with a kind of permanent identity, even though a pseudo-identity, apart from time, without this, the communication of feelings would be possible, but not a communication of thoughts, and this already indicates that the intelligible world has more to do with eternity than with time. And in the same way spatially, consider the complexity of the art in the artist, that is to say, of the form in the artist's mind, where although it is there one, this one form is the form of many things that could be and will be afterwards thought of separately. For example, in thinking of a "house", one also thinks of many other things, at least of a floor, walls, and roof. A more complex example is afforded by the well known, although far

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<sup>49</sup> BU 1 4 15, 4 4 14, CU 7 25 2, 8 1 6, BG 18 58

from unique, instance of Mozart, who heard his compositions first not phrase by phrase, but as a *totum simul*, and thought this "actual hearing of the whole together" better than the subsequent hearing of the whole extended. The most complex example is that of Dante's vision of "the universal form" of the world picture<sup>50</sup> of which he says that "within its depths I saw interned, bound up by love into one volume<sup>51</sup>, all the scattered leaves of the whole world, substances and accidents and their successions, as it were together (*insieme*)<sup>52</sup> fused in such a way that what I speak of is one simple flame. Such at that light doth man

<sup>50</sup> Plato's "eternal paradigm" on which the sensible world is modelled, *Timaeus*, 29 "the world picture (*jagac citra*) painted by the Spirit (the Self of all beings) on the canvas of the Spirit, and in which it takes a great delight" (Sankara *cārya*, *Svatmanirupana* 9c),—just as for Empedocles (Diels fr 23) and for Plato (*Timaeus* 55 C) the Creator paints, and in Islam is called a painter (*musawwir*, *Qur'an* 53 24) or, to employ Philo's equivalent, just as the ideal pattern of the thing that is to be is as it were "engraved" on the maker's mind (*Opif* 16-22)

<sup>51</sup> Cf Empedocles (Diels fr 26) "all brought together in one order by Love"

<sup>52</sup> *Insieme*, "in same", as regards both time and place "The centre of the whirl, wherein all things come together, so as to be one only" (Empedocles, Diels fr 35, 36) "all are the same there and nevertheless distinct, in the same way that the soul possesses the knowledge of many things without confusion, each fulfilling its own task when the need arises" just as in the case of the "powers" that inhere in a seed (Plotinus *Enneads* 6 9 6) "Nû sint alliu dinc gelich in gote unde sint got selber" (Meister Eckhart Pfeiffer p 311) One might say, *plures non tamen multa, sed unum*

become that to turn thence to any other sight never could he by any possibility consent!" (*Paradiso* 33 85-100). One thinks also of the immediate operation of "mathematical genius", and of a Buddha's vision that "does not work in terms of the composites" but alights where he wishes, "just as one might skip the sequence of a text', coming to the point at once" (*Vism* 111) There is also the mystery of the possibility of the communication of ideas from one apparently circumscribed mind to another, hardly understandable unless on the assumption of some transcendent element common to both<sup>53</sup> And, finally, there is the fact that is "a single knowledge of contrary things", of which the intellect can be aware at the same time, when, for example, it entertains the idea of "temperature", in which the notions of hot and cold are included<sup>54</sup>, from which an inkling can be had of what it might mean to be "liberated from the pairs of opposites", for example, from a knowledge only in terms of the past and

<sup>53</sup>"All human properties proceed from One otherwise one man could not understand another in the sound" (Jacob Boehme, *Sig Rer* 1 2) "In all conversations between two persons tacit reference is made to a common nature That third party, or common nature, is not social, it is impersonal, it is God" (Emerson, *Varieties of Religious Experience*) "Self [of the self], who controls the speech from within the understood Understander" (BU 3 8 17, 23) "Consciousness is a singular of which the plural is unknown" (Erwin Schrodinger, *What is Life?* 1945, p 90) More generally, W M Urban, *The Intelligible World* (1929) and *Language and Reality* (1939)

<sup>54</sup> Cf St Thomas Aquinas, *Sum Theol* 1 75 6, where this supplies an argument for the incorruptibility (immortality) of the *anima intellectiva*

future that, as we have seen, "are a veil to thee from God". And though omniscience may be nothing quantitative, and not a mere aggregate of knowledges of things, it still holds good that the synoptic and synthetic powers of the merely human intellect provide us with an analogy of what it might be like to see and know all things at once, not in contradistinction of subject and object, but where "to know and to be are the same thing"<sup>52</sup>. One does not imagine that the

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<sup>52</sup> This was not, as is generally supposed, first enunciated by Parmenides, fr 5 *ἢς τὰ γὰρ αὐτὸ νοεῖν ἔστιν τε καὶ εἶναι* simply means that "that which can be thought is the same as that which can be" (see Burnet, *Early Greek Philosophy*, 4th ed 1930, p 173, n 2) Plotinus, *Enneads*, 5 9 6 quotes Parmenides' words, but although by this time it was possible for the infinitive to be the subject of a sentence and, in fact, Plotinus uses *το εἶναι* as subject (*Enneads* 3 7 6), his citation of Parmenides' words is to show that "in the immaterial knowledge and the known are the same", and while this implies that *there* the knower, knowledge, and the known are the same, what is actually predicated is hardly more than the Scholastic *adequatio rei et intellectus*,—Plato's "making that in us which thinks like unto the objects of its thought", which, if they be eternal and divine, will restore our being to its 'original nature' (*Timaeus* 90) It seems to have been St Augustine who first explicitly enunciated that *in divinis* to live, to know, and to be are one and the same thing (*De Trin* 6 10 11, *In Joan Evang* 99 4, and *Conf* 13 11) To be what one knows is not a given status, but one to be achieved What is presently true is that "as one's thinking is, such he becomes" (*jac cittas tanmayo bhavati*), and it is because of this that thinking should be purified and transformed for were it as centred upon God as it now is on things sensibly perceptible "Who would not be liberated from his bondage?" (*Maitri Up* 6 34 4, 6)

Divine intellect is a sort of dictionary, but much rather a *Word* or a *Form* that is the form of many different things, to use the language of exemplarism<sup>56</sup>

In conclusion, although much could be added to what has already been said<sup>57</sup>, I shall only trace the persist-

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<sup>56</sup> Cf my "Vedic Exemplarism, *HJAS* 1, 1936, 44-64 The Angels, as Meister Eckhart says, have fewer ideas and use less means than men God has only one idea and is but that one, and needs no means at all

<sup>57</sup> I have made only a limited use of F H Brabant's admirable and comprehensive *Time and Eternity in Christian Thought*, 1937 O E Mueller's "Experimental and Existential Time" (*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 6, 1946, 424-435) deals with Greek and Christian sources I do not understand his words "Over against this absolute affirmation of being in the recurrences of natural time lies the Hindu negation of time", for it is hardly a "negation of time" to say that "time and the timeless" are *both* forms of God who is similarly "both formed and formless, "audible and silent" and so on, and it is certainly as true of India as of Greece that "the beauty and substance of human culture is made manifest in the seasonal celebrations and festivals of the year of the soul" There is a valuable discussion of our subject by Alberto Rouges, in his *Las Jerarquias del Ser y la Eternidad*, Tucumán, Argentina, 1943 Alexander's *Space Time, and Deity* I have not seen Joseph Katz in his "Eternity—Shadow of Time" (*Review of Religion* 11, 1946, 36-45) tries to invert the Platonic and traditional concept of time as being an image or imitation of eternity, and also makes the very common mistake of supposing that because the satisfaction of all desires is only possible "beyond time" such a satisfaction must be "postponed", forgetting that the *nunc aeternitatis* is as present here and now as it ever was or will be actually, it is the secular utopist who believes in the perfectibility of human society, that postpones his felicity, while the *Sufi* "son of the moment" "takes the

ence of the traditional concept of time and eternity in some of the English metaphysical poets. For example, Herrick:

O yeares<sup>1</sup> and Age<sup>1</sup> Farewell,  
Behold I go,  
Where I do know  
Infinitie to dwell

And there mine eyes shall see  
All times, how they  
Are lost i'th'Sea<sup>58</sup>  
Of Vast Eternitie

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cash and lets the credit go" Katz, moreover, thinks that the satisfaction of all desires would be "meaningless" because the needs that prompted them would be lacking, Traherne supplies the answer,—admitting that "no joy could ever be were there no want", he says of God that "He infinitely wanteth all His joys and all those wanted pleasures He infinitely hath His life in wants and joys is infinite, And both are felt as His Supreme Delight"<sup>58</sup>

<sup>58</sup> On the 'everlasting day', see above, p 13 Cf also Meister Eckhart's 'Plunge in this is the drowning' It should be needless to say that "drowning", "anonymity", 'becoming no one' are of two utterly different kinds, according to whether it is into the upper or the nether waters that one plunges. One shrinks from the upper waters only because because of attachment to the empirical and transient Ego that "is not my Self", one should shrink from a drowning in the nether waters, for this implies the loss *even* of one's individuality, so that one has no longer, properly speaking, a name but only a number, like a convict, or as in proletarian societies, becomes a statistical unit and no longer a person. To have "lost one's self" in the infinite and to have lost one's self in the in

Where never Moone shall sway  
The Starres, but she,  
And Night, shall be  
Drown'd in one endless Day

Herrick's second verse combines the thought of  
Joshua Sylvester's

To-day, To morrow, Yesterday  
With Thee are one, and instant aye,

and Angelus Silesius

Wenn du das Tropflein im grosse Meere nennen,  
Denn wirstdu meine Seel' im grossen Gott erkennen<sup>59</sup>

and also Labadie's beautiful last testament,

"I surrender my soul heartily to God, giving it back  
like a drop of water to its source, and rest confident  
in him, praying God, my origin and ocean, that he  
will take me into himself and engulf me eternally in  
the abyss of his being"<sup>60</sup>

This well known motif—"the dewdrop slips into the  
shining sea"—has, like the analogous concept of the  
sparks of the divine fire that arise from and return to it,  
and like that of the exile returning home a long *ταοαδοσι*,

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determinate are, literally worlds apart as, far apart as heaven  
from hell When shall I come to be again in Varuna? RV.  
7 S6 2.

<sup>59</sup> Angelus Silesius *Cherubinische Wandersmann* 2 2>

<sup>60</sup> Quoted by Dean Inge *Philosophy of Plotinus* 2nd ed.  
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